Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-245
Thursday
20 December 1990

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-90-245 20 December 1990

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: As of 2 January 1991, television sourcelines in the DAILY REPORT will reflect how a station identifies itself. In most cases, this change eliminates the "Television Service" designation in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new television sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Working To Restore Contacts With Egypt *[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR 19 Dec]* 1
'Arafat Greets Bahraini Amir on National Day *[Sana VOP]* 1
Reportage From Yasir 'Arafat's African Tour *[cross-reference]* 1

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Bendjedid To Start Mediterranean Tour 21 Dec *[APS]* 2
Foreign Minister Views Gulf Mediation Effort *[Algiers Radio]* 2
* Magazine Comments on Forming Islamic Alliance *[REVOLUTION AFRICAINE 8 Nov]* ... 2

Egypt

Mubarak Expected To Reshuffle Government in 1991 *[AL-WAFD 17 Dec]* 2
Egypt, Kuwaiti Funds Sign Loan Agreement *[MENA]* 3
Ghali Receives Israeli Knesset Member Beilin *[MENA]* 3
Al-Azhar Denounces Israeli 'Threat' to Sanctities *[Cairo Radio]* 3

Libya

Egyptian Minister Delivers Mubarak Message *[JANA]* 3
Iraqi Calls For Workers' Front To Oppose War *[JNA]* 4
Palestinian People's Congress Greets Al-Qadhdhafi *[JANA]* 4

Morocco

Laraki Blames Foreign Media for Strike *[Algiers Radio]* 4
Opposition Rejects Proposal on Inquiry Commission *[Paris International]* 4
MAP Reports Arrests of Union Leaders 4
Trial of Trade Union Leader Postponed *[Algiers Radio]* 5

Sudan

Rebels Deny Kassiano Remarks on Zaire Flights *[Radio SPLA]* 5

Tunisia

Islamists Jailed for Pro-Iraqi Demonstration *[Paris International]* 5

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Oil Minister Calls for International Oil Conference *[MENA]* 6
Editorial Urges Algeria's Benjedid To Mediate
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 13 Dec] 6

Oman

State Minister Leaves for Saudi Arabia, Qatar *[Muscat Radio]* 7
Qabus Chairs Cabinet Meeting; Crisis Discussed *[Muscat TV]* 7
Iranian Deputy Defense Minister Holds Talks *[IRNA]* 7

Saudi Arabia

U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney Arrives for Talks *[SPA]* 7
Talks Begin *[SPA]* 8
General Hails Forces' Cooperation at Front *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 18 Dec]* 8

United Arab Emirates

Foreign Minister Meets Syrian Counterpart *[WAKH]* 8
Crown Prince Meets Syria's Al-Shar' *[WAKH]* 9
Al-Shar' Holds News Conference *[WAKH]* 9
Armed Forces Chief of Staff Interviewed *[MENA]* 9

Yemen

Salih, Al-Bid Meet Kuwaiti Delegation *[Aden Radio]* 10
Paper on U.S. 'Political Technique' in Middle East *[Aden Radio]* 11
President Salih Interviewed on Gulf Crisis *[Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 17 Dec]* 11
People's Congress Official Meets Libyan Delegation *[Aden Radio]* 13
Food Aid Grant Agreement Signed With Japan *[Aden Radio]* 13

IRAQ

Saddam on Prospects for Peace, U.S. Talks *[Ankara TV]* 14
Measures Against 'Chemical Agents' Announced *[Baghdad Radio]* 17
Saddam Meets Senior Officials 20 Dec *[INA]* 17
People Asked To Store Fuel in Case of Attack *[Amman Radio]* 17
Amnesty International 'Allegations' Denied *[INA]* 17
Paper Comments on 'Failure' of U.S. Intelligence *[INA]* 17
Talk on 'Debauchery' of U.S. Soldiers in Egypt *[Voice of Arab Awakening]* 17
Bush 'Thwarting' Peace; War 'Inevitable' *[INA]* 18
Editorial Says Baghdad Ready for Battle *[INA]* 18
U.S. 'Invasion' Provokes Arabs and Muslims *[INA]* 18
Paper Says Nation 'Ready for All Eventualities' *[INA]* 19
State Said To Offer 500 Tonnes of Dates to USSR *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 17 Dec]* 19
Press Agency Reacts to VOA Story on Soviets *[Baghdad Radio]* 19
Paper Regrets Europe's 'Ignorance' of U.S. Aims *[INA]* 20
Editor on 'Odious' Statements by Saudi Minister *[INA]* 20
U.S. Group Says Children Suffering in Hospitals *[INA]* 20
Ramadan Meets With Philippine Peace Group *[INA]* 21
Ba'th Official Says Kuwait Move 'Preemptive' *[INA]* 21
Friendship Group Chief Meets Polish Official *[INA]* 21
Peace Organization Chief, WPC Official Confer *[INA]* 21
Arab Liberation Front Secretary Supports State *[INA]* 22
Jasim Meets With World Peace Group *[INA]* 22
Ramadan Meets UK's Grant, Assails Resolutions *[INA]* 22
Anti-Nuclear War Activist Praises Initiative *[INA]* 23

Minister Receives World Churches Delegation *[Baghdad Radio]* 23
Ba'th Officials Provide Civil Defense Training *[INA]* 23
Civil Defense Director on Training, Seminars *[INA]* 23
Communist Party Chief on Gulf Crisis, Saddam *[Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ 16 Dec]* 24

ISRAEL

Jerusalem Concerned Over Possible Iraq Deal *[HA'ARETZ 19 Dec]* 26
Shamir Says Status Quo in Iraq 'Dangerous' *[Jerusalem TV]* 26
Says Low Profile To Continue *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Levi: U.S. 'Holds the Key' To Ending Crisis *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
U.S. Opposition to Deportations 'Puzzling' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 17 Dec]* 27
'Unprecedented Low' in Support for Labor Bloc *[DAVAR 18 Dec]* 27
Sharon: Immigrants Not Being Sent to Territories *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 14 Dec]* 28
Goren Descibes Territories' Economy as 'Bleak' *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 29
Effects of 'Wave of Immigration' on Economy *[THE JERUSALEM POST 20 Dec]* 29
Arab Attacks in Jerusalem; Fugitives Arrested *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Intifadah Incidents, News Conference Reported *[THE JERUSALEM POST 19 Dec, etc.]* 30
'Terrorist' Squad Uncovered; Houses Sealed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Milo: 'Terrorist' Murderers 'Won't Get Out Alive' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 20 Dec]* 31
Agriculture Ministry Orders Water Supplies Cut *[TH JERUSALEM POST 20 Dec]* 31

JORDAN

King Husayn, U.S. Congressman Discuss Gulf *[Amman Radio]* 32
U.S. Cautioned Against Gulf War Moves *[AL-RA'Y 18 Dec]* 32
Iraqi Red Crescent Official Speaks in Amman *[JORDAN TIMES 19 Dec]* 32
Saudi King Urged To Start Arab Dialogue *[AL-RA'Y 19 Dec]* 33
'Immediate' Intervention of UNSC Urged *[JORDAN TIMES 19 Dec]* 34
UNICEF Says Crisis Increases Poverty *[JORDAN TIMES 20-22 Dec]* 34
Editorial Views Economic Decline *[JORDAN TIMES 20-21 Dec]* 35
Prince Hasan Interviewed on Gulf Issues *[Jordan TV]* 35
JCP Leader Criticizes Invasion of Kuwait *[Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ 30 Nov]* 36
JCP States Position *[AL-RA'Y 20 Dec]* 38
Column Criticizes Communists *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 19 Dec]* 38
Deputies Approve 1991 Draft State Budget *[Amman TV]* 39
Muslim Brotherhood Critical *[JORDAN TIMES 19 Dec]* 39

LEBANON

Nabih Birri Views Army Deployment in South *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Resistance Group Clashes With Israeli Patrol *[Beirut Radio]* 41
SLA, Nasirite Forces Engage in 'Fierce Clashes' *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Israeli Reinforcements, Lahd Remarks Reported *[AL-SAFIR 19 Dec]* 41
Defense Minister Returns From Visit to Libya *[VOL]* 41

SYRIA

Syria Reportedly Convinced Saddam Wants War *[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR 20 Dec]* 42
Al-Shar' Returns From UAE, Comments on Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Al-Shar' Urges Definition of Terrorism, Struggle *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Al-Zu'bi Confers With Kuwait's Al-Ya'qub *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Kuwaiti Minister Arrives To 'Expand' Cooperation *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Israel Intransigence on UN Resolutions Viewed *[TISHRIN 12 Dec]* 43
EC Decide To Extend Loans, Grants to Syria *[Damascus Radio]* 44

SOUTH ASIA

Bangladesh

Election Commission Changes Date to March 2 *[AFP]* 45

Commission on Ershad Corruption Begins Work *[Dhaka International]* 45
Nationals in Iraq Advised To Contact Embassy *[Dhaka International]* 45
Portfolios of Two Advisers Allocated *[Dhaka Radio]* 45

India

7 Killed in Punjab; Arms, Ammunition Seized *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Court Stays Proceedings in Bofors Case *[Delhi Radio]* 45

Iran

Velayati Ends Talks in Sweden, Departs *[Tehran Radio]* 45
Peaceful Gulf Solution 'Imperative' *[Tehran Radio]* 46
UN Envoy Reports Arrest of Food Smugglers *[IRNA]* 46
Fifth Stage of Victory-1 Maneuvers Successful *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Commentary on Maneuvers *[Tehran Radio]* 46
Naval Commander's Assessment *[Tehran TV]* 47
Commentary Views Velayati's Visit to Turkey *[Tehran International]* 48
Paper Comments on Islamic Palestine Conference *[JONHURI-YE ESLAMI 6 Dec]* 48
Paper Comments on U.S. Policy on Gulf *[ETTELA'AT 2 Dec]* 48
Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Current Issues *[Tehran TV]* 49
Commentary Views Bush Proposal, Iraqi Response *[ETTELA'AT 3 Dec]* 51
Paper Warns of Consequences of U.S.-Iraqi 'Deal' *[RESALAT 3 Dec]* 52
Challenge of Revolution Values to U.S. Noted *[KEYHAN 3 Dec]* 53
Guardians Approve Three Bills, Reject One *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Details of Allotted Budget Expenditure Given *[IRNA]* 54
Va'ezi Comments on Economic Talks With France *[Tehran TV]* 55
Council Backs Implementing Supplementary Budget *[Tehran Radio]* 55
USSR Caspian Sea Shipping Talks Held *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Commission To Review Judiciary Reform *[Tehran Radio]* 55

Pakistan

Head of Iranian Cultural Center Assassinated *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Alleged Assassin Arrested *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Reportage on Visit of Indian Foreign Secretary 56
Meets Sharif 19 Dec *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
High-Level Talks Extended *[Delhi Radio]* 56
Press Statement on Agreements *[Delhi Radio]* 56

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Working To Restore Contacts With Egypt

TA1912141590 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 19 Dec 90 pp 1, 4

[Report by Avner Regev]

[Text] High-level political sources in Jerusalem yesterday said that Israel is concerned by the U.S. readiness to consider increasing the number of UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] employees in the territories so that they can serve as observers and report their findings to the UN secretary general. The sources stressed that such actions exceed the organization's mandate, and would constitute a capitulation to the demands of the nonaligned states in the Security Council and an indirect surrender to the PLO.

Israeli Arab activists, who maintain close contacts with the PLO and its representatives, reported that two PLO Executive Committee members arrived in Cairo a few days ago in order to clandestinely renew contacts between Yasir 'Arafat and the Egyptian administration, despite the PLO's support of Iraq. By this attempt, 'Arafat is trying to convince Egypt to agree to the convening of an international conference that will deal with the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian problem simultaneously. The activists claimed that the two men met with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, the director of Mubarak's bureau, and with Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

This hints at a certain change in the PLO position as reported by 'AL HAMISHMAR last week, according to which 'Arafat had decided to drop Egyptian mediation in the peace process.

The Arab activists further reported that, according to information received in the last few days, 'Arafat and his close associates were greatly worried by the lukewarm American reaction to the administrative detentions of Radwan Abu-'Ayyash and Ziyad Abu-Zayyad. They consider this to be the United States' way of punishing the PLO for its support of Iraq. 'Arafat is also concerned by the strengthening of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which is reaping the rewards of the intifadah. Therefore, 'Arafat is trying to improve his standing in the territories while at the same time seeking ways to make contact with the United States.

Senior political sources in Jerusalem confirmed that they knew of 'Arafat's moves. They asserted that the PLO today has no standing in the political scene, and that the PLO was in the dumps as far as the U.S. Administration was concerned. The PLO today is in the same situation as the Hamas, which is not considered a viable interlocuter by the important U.S. policy makers.

'Arafat Greets Bahraini Amir on National Day

JN2012140390 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine and PLO Executive Committee chairman, has congratulated Shaykh 'Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, on the national day of his country. In a cable of congratulations sent yesterday to the amir of Bahrain on this occasion, Brother Abu-'Ammar said:

On this national occasion, I affirm to your highness that our people will continue [words indistinct] and their blessed intifadah with a strong resolve and firm faith under the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative, supported therein by brothers, friends, and the free ones in the world until victory is achieved through the termination of the Israeli occupation of their land and holy places and, the restoration and exercise of their national inalienable rights, and the establishment of their independent state with holy Jerusalem, the first of the two qiblahs [direction toward which Muslims face for prayers] and the third holiest place, as its capital. We are confident that sisterly Bahrain will continue its support for our people's jihad.

On this occasion, I pray that God will grant success to the efforts of ourselves and the leaders of our nation to restore unity to Arab ranks and Arab solidarity, and to unify joint Arab action with the aim of pooling our nation's capabilities and resources to confront the major and fateful challenges and the events that threaten our nation's existence and future, and to support our people to liberate the first of two qiblas and the third holiest mosque from Israeli occupation.

Reportage From Yasir 'Arafat's African Tour

WA2012074590

For coverage of Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Africa, see the Central, East, Southern, and West Africa sections of the 18 December Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Algeria

Bendjedid To Start Mediterranean Tour 21 Dec

LD2012112190 Algiers APS in English 1007 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Algiers, 20/12/90 (APS)—Carrying out the tour that led him last week to some Middle Eastern and Maghreban countries, President Chadli Bendjedid will, from Dec 21st 90 onwards, pay a working visit to other Mediterranean and Maghreban countries, noted a communique from the Presidency. In this context, he will start his visit in Rome on December 21 and their will head to Paris and Madrid.

Foreign Minister Views Gulf Mediation Effort

LD2012002990 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghazali has made an initial assessment of President Chadli Bendjedid's visit and said that it aimed at bringing together the ideas of all the concerned parties, including the main ones, in terms of whether a peaceful solution can be achieved. He added that the mission Algeria has taken upon itself to carry out is enough to define the real framework within which the president's tour came and was carried out without being assigned by anybody and without any intention of a mediation. [sentence as heard] The head of Algerian diplomacy added that on the basis of these signs, it is clear that Algeria has no plan to propose a miracle program. It is, as he said, continuing to give and contribute assistance, and this is its responsibility: to open the way, even if it is narrow in front of the closing of Arab ranks, to prevent a disaster taking place in this sensitive and strategic region.

* Magazine Comments on Forming Islamic Alliance

91P40074A

[Editorial Report] In Algiers REVOLUTION AFRICAINE in French on 8 November on pages 9 and 10, a reporter identified only as Z.G. comments on a proposal by Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of El Irchad Oua El Islah (Guidance and Reformation), to form an Islamic alliance.

The author cites several reasons for the proposal. First of all, he sees the alliance as a response to the mobilization of National Liberation Front members who are concerned about the recent turn of political events and fear a repeat of the 12 June election results. Second, he says that the alliance would counteract the recent splintering of the Islamic movement into many factions. The author also sees the alliance as an attempt to correct the behavior of certain Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) leaders whose problems in communal government have reflected poorly on the Islamic movement in general. By addressing each of these concerns, the alliance, in the author's opinion, would hope to ensure the success of the Islamic movement during the upcoming legislative elections.

According to the author, the alliance proposal elicited various responses. More than 300 Islamic associations expressed interest in joining such an alliance. Benkhedda, head of El Oumma (The Nation), called for the Islamic movements to come together in order to "face complex struggles...such as the establishment of communal lists for the next legislative elections." The president of the Nahda Islamya (Islamic Renaissance) movement, Saad Ben Djaballah, called the alliance a "duty among Muslims."

The writer says that the FIS leader, Abassi Madani, was quick to reject Nahnah's proposal by citing a hadith (narrative relating deeds and utterances of the Prophet). Nahnah then accused Madani of altering the hadith in question. Madani did reportedly pose the following question quoted in the French-language newspaper LE SOIR D'ALGERIE on 27 October: "If one day the FIS is weakened in Parliament, how and with whom will the Islamic state be created?" The author infers from this question that Madani intends for the FIS to gain control of Parliament alone and then face the possibility of alliances with other Islamic factions once it is in power, and only if absolutely necessary. He claims that Madani may well be obliged to form such alliances in that scenario.

In discussing the reasons for Madani's curt rejection of Nahnah's proposal, the author speculates that perhaps the FIS leader fears the emergence of any serious rival for power among the various Islamic factions. He sees Nahnah's image as a moderating and unifying force among Muslims as a source of considerable concern for Madani. He wonders if this disagreement within the Islamic ranks hints at a democratic element within the Islamic movement.

Although a decision on the proposed Islamic alliance has been postponed, the author expects the debate to reappear frequently in the media as the Islamic groups seek as much exposure as possible ahead of next year's elections. He notes that they have already shown their ability to master this means of communication.

Egypt

Mubarak Expected To Reshuffle Government in 1991

PM1912151390 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 17 Dec 90 p 1

[Unattributed report: "President Mubarak Considering Suitable Date for Carrying Out Major Cabinet Reshuffle"]

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi is expected to present his government's resignation to President Husni Mubarak after the final agreement with the IMF is signed next month for the rescheduling of about $6.5 billion of the debts, expected to be paid by the end of next June. Informed sources have emphasized that President Mubarak's decision to assign education minister's tasks to Scientific Research Minister Dr. 'Adil 'Izz, instead of appointing a new minister, is an indication of

the existence of an inclination to carry out a major cabinet reshuffle affecting some of the present ministers. President Mubarak is now considering that a suitable date should be fixed for carrying out the cabinet reshuffle, in light of developments in the Gulf crisis, after the expiration of the deadline specified for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait—namely 15 January—the permission given to the international forces in the Gulf to use force to liberate Kuwait, and the possibilities of a war breaking out in the region. A transitional government is expected to be formed under a former military leader in the event of a war in the Gulf. Some National Democratic Party [NDP] leaders from among the People's Assembly as well as Consultative Council members are seeking ministerial posts in the new government. In the forefront of them are Dr. Samir Tubar, chairman of the party's Economic Committee; Dr. Hilmi Nammar, former secretary general of the Arab Cooperation Council; Dr. Mufid Shihab, chairman of the Consultative Council Arab Affairs Committee; and Dr. Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee. President Mubarak will make changes in NDP ranks and formations in some governorates including Cairo, Ismailia, Suez, Alexandria, al-Qalyubiyah, Port Said, Southern Sinai, al-Buhayrah, al-Minufiyah, al-Sharqiyah, Damietta, al-Gharbiyah, and Qina. The changes will be made in the light of the results of the People's Assembly elections and the failure of five party secretaries to win in these governorates.

Egypt, Kuwaiti Funds Sign Loan Agreement

NC1912173590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—An agreement was signed today between Egypt and the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development, in which the latter grants Egypt a loan of 20 million Kuwaiti dinars to finance reclamation of 400,000 feddans in northern Sinai.

The objective of the project, which will be launched early next year, is to increase crop and animal production through the reclamation and farming of 400,000 feddans in northern Sinai. The project will involve digging a 1,300-meter long and 12-meter deep tunnel under the Suez Canal to draw water; digging a 155-km long canal; the construction of irrigation, electricity, and road networks; the construction of pumping stations; and the building of 27 villages.

The agreement was signed by Dr. Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation, and Shaykh 'Ali Khalifah al-'Adhbi al-Sabah, Kuwaiti finance minister and acting chairman of the Kuwaiti Fund.

Dr. Makramallah stated that the loan will be paid back over a 28-year period, with an eight-year grace period, at an annual interest of 2.5 percent in addition to 0.5 percent to meet administrative fees and expenses involved in the implementation of the agreement.

Dr. Makramallah noted that the fund will provide the foreign currency necessary for financing the infrastructure for irrigation and drainage work involved in the project. For this purpose, the fund will provide additional loans amounting to 51 million Kuwaiti dinars, equivalent to $175 million, as part of the total cost of the project which amounts to 471 million Kuwaiti dinars or $600 million.

Ghali Receives Israeli Knesset Member Beilin

NC1912195190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1916 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Tonight Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, received Yosi Beilin, Israeli Knesset member and a leader of the Israeli Labor Party, who is currently visiting Cairo. During the meeting, they discussed the situation in the occupied Arab territories. Ghali stressed the need to resume the peaceful process after the Gulf crisis has been settled in order to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East through the attainment of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Al-Azhar Denounces Israeli 'Threat' to Sanctities

NC1912155490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Al-Azhar has denounced the Israeli threat to continue transgressing religious sanctities in Jerusalem. Al-Azhar also denounced the expelling of Arabs from their homes, chasing and torturing them. Al-Azhar held the Israeli authorities responsible for their subjects' practices and for negligence in undertaking their public duty to protect all religious sanctities.

In a statement issued today, al-Azhar called on Palestinian Arabs to hold on to their lands and to defend their sanctities with their lives. It called on all Islamic peoples and governments to support the defenders of our sanctities, and on international organizations to take the necessary measures to protect the unarmed Arabs, to enable them to exercise their human rights, and to protect sanctities, homes, and families.

Al-Azhar urged all peace-loving organizations and institutions to shoulder their duties and to intervene to lift injustice and stop the infringement of the Palestinian people's rights, particularly after reports that the Israeli trustees of the temple movement intend to launch an aggression against the honorable al-Aqsa Mosque.

Libya

Egyptian Minister Delivers Mubarak Message

LD1912112590 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Dec (JANA)—Egyptian Information Minister Dr. Safwat al-Sharif made a statement before

his departure with the accompanying delegation last night. He said: I have come to the Great Jamahiriyah, carrying a message to brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great al-Fatih Revolution, from his brother, president Muhammad Husni Mu'arak, concerning the recent developments in the Persian Gulf and the contacts which took place at the Arab and international levels. Dr. Safwat al-Sharif affirmed the desire of Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to convey to his brother, Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great al-Fatih Revolution, Egypt's view on all the Arab and international issues and to push forward the cooperation and integration in various fields between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Iraqi Calls For Workers' Front To Oppose War

JN1612163690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 15 Dec (INA)—The General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions has called for launching a world workers' front to oppose the hostile war that the United States threatens to wage against Iraq and the Arab nation.

In a speech at the fifth conference of the African Trade Union Unity Organization, which concluded its work here today, Fadil Mahmud Gharib, chairman of the General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions, said that the basic role of the world front opposing aggression would be to work seriously to secure the withdrawal of the U.S.-Atlantic troops from the holy Arab lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and the Arabian Gulf.

The chairman of the General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions said that the unjust economic blockade being enforced against Iraq by the United States contravenes all international charters and norms and violates the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. He added that this would neither make the Iraqi people abandon their historical rights nor relinquish the task of defending the Arab nation's honor. [passage omitted]

Palestinian People's Congress Greets Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1612145190 Tripoli JANA in English 1420 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kaoun [December] 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Palestinian General People's Congress has sent a telegram to the leader of the revolution saying that this congress, the masses of the Palestinian People's Congresses and the Palestinian masses in general, while commemorating the last three years of steadfastness and struggle against the Zionist occupation, laud the great victory scored by the leader of the revolution over the puppet of colonialism Habre.

The telegram also pays tribute to the return of the the brotherly strugglers from Chad after waging the battle of honour and heroism in defence of the pan-Arab [word indistinct] to continue the struggle until the liberation of Palestine from the river to the sea and from the north to the south.

The telegram stresses that this represents a pledge to be honoured continuing to be obedient soldiers in the battle of Arab honour [word indistinct] Arab [word indistinct] forward and the revolutionary struggle continues.

Morocco

Laraki Blames Foreign Media for Strike

LD2012081290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] During an intervention before the House of Representatives, Moroccan Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki blamed some foreign mass media for inciting the strike called for by Moroccan trade unions last week. This strike degenerated into bloody clashes between Moroccan security forces and demonstrators and left dozens of dead and injured, according to trade unions, and five dead, according to the Moroccan Government.

Opposition Rejects Proposal on Inquiry Commission

LD1912131290 Paris International Service in French 0635 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Yesterday evening the Moroccan opposition parties rejected the government proposal to set up a commission of inquiry into the unrest in recent days. They rejected the proposal put forward by the prime minister to parliament on Monday. Farida Moha reports from Rabat:

[Moha] [passage omitted] The opposition parties, who have rejected the fact that the government should be both judge and judged, have demanded the creation of an independent commission, half of which would be composed of majority representatives and half of those of the opposition. [passage omitted]

MAP Reports Arrests of Union Leaders

LD1912143390 Rabat MAP in English 1337 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Rabat, Dec. 19 (MAP)—The Moroccan daily L'OPINION (Istiqlal—opposition) reported Tuesday the arrest in Fes of the regional secretary of the General Union of Moroccan Workers (UGTM) Mohamed Titna Alaoui and Secretary General of the Equipment Trade Union Bouchta Joual.

The UGTM leader appeared in court Monday for charges of "rebellion, gatherir g in public and circulation of false information," said the daily. As to Ajoual, L'OPINION only said he was arrested in his office.

According to AL-ITTIHAD AL-ICHTIRA, AL-BAYANE and L'OPINION opposition dailies, legal action has been incepted in Fes, Tangiers and Rabat

against those charged with taking part in the riots of last weekend, following the call for the December 14 general strike launched by two major trade unions.

Trial of Trade Union Leader Postponed

LD2012000690 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] At a time when the press of the Moroccan opposition calls for the setting up of an unbiased investigation committee and rejection of the committee announced by Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki, Morocco's authorities started at noon today to transfer some youths to Rabat court on charges of organizing an illegal demonstration, breach of general security, and harming the state's property. The Moroccan opposition calls for the dropping of these legal proceedings and the release of all the detainees.

Latest reports say that the court in Fes this evening adjourned the trial of Mohamed Alaoui, the leader of the General Union of Moroccan Workers in Fes to 24 December. Mohamed Alaoui appeared today before this court accused of rebellion and spreading false ideas during the general strike which was organized on 14 December.

Sudan

Rebels Deny Kassiano Remarks on Zaire Flights

EA1912191290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The official spokesman of the SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Sudanese People's Liberation Army] in a message to Radio SPLA expressed surprise at a claim made over the BBC yesterday by the junta's Brigadier PSC [passed staff college] Dominic Kassiano to the effect that Brigadier retired Samuel Abu John [Anyanya Two leader in 1983] was not with SPLA and furthermore, that Brig. retired Samuel Abu John was in Isiro in Zaire, where Dominic Kassiano insinuated that he met Brig. Samuel Abu John.

The spokesman said that Dominic Kassiano simply lied without a shadow of shame. Brig. retired Samuel Abu John has joined the SPLM/SPLA and has not been to Isiro or anywhere else in Zaire. Brig. retired Samuel Abu John has already been appointed chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Political Mobilization and Recruitment for Western Equatoria and he has been addresing public rallies in Zandeland over the last seven days. Today, (?the) military (?recruitment) into the [word indistinct] brigade has reached 1,000 and registration is continuing. Some of the speeches by Brig. Samuel Abu John and other [words indistinct] in Equatoria will be played over Radio SPLA in the next few days.

The spokesman confirmed that some citizens had gone to Zaire and the CAR [Central African Republic] for the simple reason that the enemy had spread among the population massive disinformation. These people fled not because of what the SPLA did, but as a result of this disinformation. But now with the lies exposed and the truth established, there is an opposite flow of returnees from Zaire and CAR back to their homes in the Sudan. It is established that more than 1,000 are returning every day. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Islamists Jailed for Pro-Iraqi Demonstration

LD1912170790 Paris International Service in French 0635 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Another very high verdict on the Islamists in Tunisia: prison sentences have been passed on several fundamentalists accused of having organized a demonstration of support for Iraq. The year now ending has been very hard on Tunisian fundamentalists, as our correspondent Rida Boughezi in Tunis explains:

[Boughezi] [passage omitted] The last verdict to date passed by the Tunis court affects some 10 Islamists: six who were tried in absentia were sentenced to two years imprisonment, and three others who were arrested will each get a year's imprisonment for organizing an unauthorized demonstration. According to sources close to the unrecognized Islamist movement Nahdah, the court reproached the defendants with having organized a rally in support of Iraq in Tunis on 14 August. The rally took place the day after an official march organized by the RCD [Democratic Constitutional Rally], the party in power, to denounce the foreign military intervention in the Gulf. The Islamist demonstration was harshly dispersed by the police at the time. The visible but discreet presence of the police at the main crossroads in the Tunisian capital has been reinforced in recent weeks to prevent any outbursts in the streets.

Kuwait

Oil Minister Calls for International Oil Conference

NC1912141890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Kuwaiti Oil Minister Dr. Rashid Salim al-'Umayri has called for an international oil conference to examine the fluctuations in the price of oil and to find a reasonable solution that will achieve relative stability in the oil market.

In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR magazine to be published Friday, 21 December, Dr. al-'Umayri stressed the need for international agreement on the policy governing the exploitation of resources in the Gulf region, the richest region in the world in terms of energy resources. The goal of such a policy should be to avert injustice to producing countries and to spare consumers additional burdens.

The Kuwaiti oil minister expressed his belief that oil prices will fall to between $21 and $25 per barrel after Kuwait is liberated. He pointed out that supply and demand are not the only forces governing oil prices, adding that it is fear of future developments that is behind the current fluctuation in oil prices.

Dr. al-'Umayri affirmed that Kuwait is the country that has been most committed to production quotas. He said if Kuwait was invaded because it had exceeded its quota, as Saddam Husayn has claimed, then Iraq should also have invaded 10 other countries.

He asserted that Kuwait can never become involved in a conspiracy against another Arab state. He noted that Iraq's exceeded its designated quota in the 1970's, something which triggered a decline in oil prices.

The Kuwaiti minister pointed out that Kuwait will change its policy, including its policy on oil production, after liberation because the present crisis provides many lessons that should be applied.

Dr. al-'Umayri reiterated that Kuwait never stole oil from al-Rumaylah, contrary to Iraq's allegations. He underlined that Kuwait will make no concessions as far as its territory and properties are concerned. He said his country demands the implementation of the UN resolutions.

Dr. al-'Umayri said Kuwait will not negotiate with Iraq unless the latter withdraws completely and unconditionally from Kuwaiti territory and compensates Kuwait for all the destruction it caused.

Dr. al-'Umayri concluded by saying that only after Iraq has implemented the UN resolutions can Kuwait agree to the setting up of an international committee to discuss the issue of the al-Rumaylah oil field. Only then will Kuwait bind itself to an international resolution and any solution the committee might work out.

Editorial Urges Algeria's Benjedid To Mediate

PM1412160490 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 13 Dec 90 p 1

[Editorial by Muhammad al-Rumayhi: "Your Excellency, President Chadli Bendjedid"]

[Text] "In their predicament the Kuwaiti people have learned many lessons, and the effects of this will emerge after the country's liberation."

I borrow this sentence from the statement made by His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent, to a German magazine, commenting on the mediation efforts being made by Arab parties. We do not at all doubt the sincere intentions, noble objectives, and serious commitment of some of these parties with regard to the Arab nation's issues, including the Kuwaiti issue that has been imposed on us. But some of them have ill intentions and a bad conscience. They may appear neutral outwardly, but they are in fact completely biased toward aggression. They deserve no attention, because the language of dialogue that they know is that perpetuated by the ruler of Baghdad in his betrayal and his evil, brutal aggression against Kuwait. [passage omitted]

We have learned that good intentions alone are not enough, that words must be matched by deeds, and that reality is richer than imagination.

We can talk here about the recent mediation by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, a leader whom we respect. We also respect the heritage and present of his noble people who gave over 1.5 million martyrs to recover their usurped freedom, will, deep-rooted history, and right to self-determination.

We Kuwaitis at home and abroad do not doubt the Algerian leader's good intentions and sincerity. So we can talk to him very openly, sincerely, and clearly: Mr. President, we are an occupied people. We are either imprisoned or murdered at home, or homeless abroad. Every day, every hour, and every minute new victims from among our kinfolk, brothers, and friends in Kuwait join the list of martyrs, prisoners, or missing persons. What we require of you, leader of the people of the 1.5 million martyrs, is to stand by us and to tell Saddam to stop that ugly and unprecedented massacre, which even the paratroopers and black feet [Algerian-born Frenchmen] forces did not commit in Algeria before independence. We also ask you to keep us in your heart, as we kept your people in our hearts during the predicament and as we keep you in our hearts today. This is because people such as you know the value of territory, the value of freedom, the value of legitimacy, and the value of human rights. All these are missing in our occupied Kuwait. We tell you, Mr. President, what Shaykh Sa'd, the heir apparent, said on our behalf: If what is required is an Arab solution, the Arab solution is there. It is clear, evident, and specific. It was stipulated in an Arab summit resolution that cannot be subject to interpretation. As you may recall, that summit was held

in Cairo on 10 August. We are for that Arab solution. We are for the occupier's withdrawal, for our repatriation with legitimacy to our pure Kuwait, for the release of our kinfolk who are subject to greater suffering and repression. Mr. President, we bless your efforts if their objective is to persuade the Baghdad regime and Saddam Husayn to implement that Arab solution, which was endorsed over four months ago and over which our people have suffered predicaments and calamities. [passage omitted]

Mr. President, your efforts must start and finish in Baghdad, and we hope to receive you, son of the people of the 1.5 million martyrs, in the homeland of the 1 million fighters, free Kuwait.

Oman

State Minister Leaves for Saudi Arabia, Qatar

NC1912173090 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] His Excellency Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, left the country this morning to visit Saudi Arabia for two days. In a departure statement, the minister said that he is carrying an oral message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id to his brother Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, as part of the continued consultations between the two monarchs on all issues of importance to both countries as well as to the region.

Concerning the reaction of Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries to Iraq's rejection of the initiative by U.S. President George Bush, His Excellency Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah said that since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, GCC countries have come to view the the situation as volatile and as one that may lead to a disaster unless Iraq implements international resolutions.

Following his visit to Saudi Arabia, the Omani minister of state for foreign affairs will go to Qatar to attend the meeting of the GCC foreign ministers which will begin tomorrow. The meeting will discuss preparations for the 11th GCC summit, due to be held in Doha on 22 December.

Qabus Chairs Cabinet Meeting; Crisis Discussed

NC1712190390 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] His Exalted Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id chaired the Cabinet meeting at the Cabinet's headquarters in Muscat this evening. During the meeting, his majesty touched on the Gulf crisis and its implications as well as the Sultanate's efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully.

His majesty pointed out that cooperation and coordination do exist between the Sultanate and the fraternal and friendly states to resolve this crisis. His majesty expressed happiness at the forthcoming summit meeting with his brother kings and princes, leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council. He noted that the meeting, slated to be held in fraternal Qatar, will provide an opportunity to discuss the recent developments in the region and efforts that can be made to safeguard the region's security and stability and realize its peoples' aspirations and hopes.

Alluding to the internal situation and to his majesty's concern about the progress of development in the country, his exalted majesty stressed the importance for the Cabinet to assess and review the fourth five-year plan before the end of this year so that its implementation would begin early 1991. His majesty emphasized that the plan should provide for the development of all areas in the Sultanate and for the increase of the rates of growth in the various sectors because this would realize future needs and basic requirements.

His majesty also discussed a number of other topics that concern the homeland and the citizens. He instructed their highnesses and excellencies, members of the Cabinet, to create suitable circumstances that would the accomplish the objectives. His majesty wished the Cabinet success.

Iranian Deputy Defense Minister Holds Talks

LD1912200790 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 19, IRNA—Deputy Minister of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics Brigadier General Akbar Ghafrollahi, currently in Muscat at the head of a military delegation, met with Omani Deputy Premier for Security and Defence Affairs Fahar Bin-Taymur Al Sa'id, Wednesday. The two discussed Tehran-Muscat cooperation in various areas especially in the military field.

Ghafrollahi and his entourage also held talks with Omani minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-al-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah on ways of promoting mutual cooperation.

The Iranian military delegation arrived in Muscat Saturday.

Saudi Arabia

U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney Arrives for Talks

LD1912182690 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1738 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 19 Dec, (SPA)—His Excellency the U.S. Defense Secretary, Richard Cheney, arrived this evening in Riyadh for a visit to the Kingdom lasting five days, during which he will have talks with senior officials in the Kingdom and will also inspect the positions of the U.S. forces participating in the multinational force. He was welcomed on arrival at Riyadh air base by His Royal Highness Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces and the

operations theater; U.S. Ambassador Charles Freeman; General Schwartzkopf, commander of the U.S. forces; Air Force Staff Brigadier Zubn Dibyan al-Ruqi, commander of the Riyadh air base; Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Banyan, the Saudi military attache in the United States; and senior officers of the joint forces. [passage omitted]

Talks Begin

LD1912231490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2230 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, this evening gave a dinner banquet in honor of His Excellency the U.S. Defense Secretary, Mr. Richard Cheney. [passage omitted]

The Saudi and U.S. sides held a round of talks after the banquet which was attended by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, the assistant to the minister of defense and aviation for military affairs, 'Uthman al-Humayd, and the chief of the General Staff, Staff Major General Muhammad al-Hammad, His Royal Highness Lieutenant General Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces and the operations theater. [passage omitted]

General Hails Forces' Cooperation at Front

PM1912123290 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 Dec 90 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Prince Khalid Says: Coordination Excellent At All Levels"]

[Excerpts] The Front, Northeast Saudi Arabia—Staff Lieutenant General Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces and of the theater of operations, has said that there is coordination—and at a very high level—among the various forces. Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, during his inspection tour of the Saudi and joint forces the day before yesterday, about the Iraqi regime's allegations that the coordination among the various forces is defective, Prince Khalid Said: The best proof of the good coordination are the continuing joint exercises. [passage omitted]

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT asked him from this position on the front in the Saudi desert: Do you believe that the Saudi, Arab, and friendly forces, with their numbers, now form a sufficient deterrent in the event of a war? Does a desert war require a human march such as that for which the Baghdad regime says it is sending more men to the front? Prince Khalid said that war is not about numbers of men and that the increase in numbers of personnel that the regime is talking about is an exaggeration. War means, first, men who believe in what they do—a point of weakness on his side, because his officers and men do not believe in what they are experiencing now. Whereas our personnel here in the joint forces and from the friendly states believe fully—a point of weakness for him and a point of strength for us. This is, of course, in addition to the equipment, which is even more daunting than he can imagine. So if anything happens he will see things that he has never seen in his life.

Concerning President Bush's decision to increase the U.S. forces in the Gulf and his reply to those who say that such an increase complicates diplomatic endeavors to resolve the crisis, Prince Khalid said: Any forces that join the operations theater represent a source of satisfaction for any military commander.

He went on: I regard them as a reinforcement of the existing forces. This is because they have now enabled us to carry out whatever tasks are assigned to us by the supreme commander of the Armed Forces. But as for this being described as a hindrance to the peace process, peace is everyone's wish. The military wishes it even more than the civilian population.

He said: President Saddam still has opportunities to bring about peace, simply by withdrawing from an internationally recognized state. If this withdrawal takes place, if legitimacy is restored to the State of Kuwait, and if we ascertain that security is established in the region, we will all be happy. But if that does not happen, we are always awaiting orders to do what is required of us—to achieve a withdrawal, whether with his consent or by force. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Foreign Minister Meets Syrian Counterpart

NC1912155990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1340 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Dec (MENA)—The United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Syria today called on the Iraqi leadership to accept the calls for peace and to withdraw Iraqi troops from Kuwait without conditions in implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and in accordance with international legitimacy. Such a move could spare the land and people of Iraq as well as the entire region unspeakable perils, the two countries said.

This position was voiced at a meeting between UAE Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this afternoon. The two ministers agreed that the solution of the Gulf crisis and the restoration of peace, security, and stability to the region hinges on the response of the Iraqi leadership to the international resolutions.

The two countries called on Iraq to make the brave decision to implement the resolutions of the Arab emergency summit in Cairo and the UN Security Council. The two countries noted that all efforts and consultations have so far failed to persuade Iraq to withdraw

from Kuwaiti territory and to allow the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government.

The UAE news agency [WAM] cited a responsible source as saying that the meeting focused on various aspects of the Gulf crisis, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and bilateral ties.

The source said that the two sides expressed identical views on all the topics discussed during the meeting.

Crown Prince Meets Syria's Al-Shar'

NC1912162590 Manama WAKH in English 1338 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 19 (WAKH)—Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE [United Arab Emirates] Armed Forces Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan today received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', currently visiting the UAE.

They discussed current Arab and Gulf developments after the August 2 Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait and efforts exterted to solve the Gulf crisis in the framework of Arab and international resolutions aimed at liberating Kuwait and restoring its legitimate government. They also discussed ways of further boosting bilateral relations.

The meeting was attended by UAE Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah as well as Syrian Ambassador Mustafa 'Umran.

[At 1520 GMT, Manama WAKH in English adds, "Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left the country for Damascus this evening after a two-day visit to the UAE.

["During the visit al-Shar' conveyed a message to UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Syrian President Hafiz al- Asad dealing with the developments on the Gulf crisis.

["He also held talks with a number of the officials."]

Al-Shar' Holds News Conference

NC1912192690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 Dec (WAKH)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has underlined that Arab attempts to resolve the Gulf crisis aim to bring about the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, which is a basic and imperative prerequisite agreed upon by all Arab states without exception.

At a news conference he held before leaving Abu Dhabi for his country this evening, al-Shar' maintained that any Arab effort would be a waste of time if this withdrawal were not achieved.

Al-Shar' referred to the negative reflections in the Arab arena of the Iraqi devastation of Kuwait. Of these reflections, he mentioned the blow dealt to the unity of Arab ranks, the obstruction of Arab solidarity efforts, and the attempts to weaken the Arab League and preoccupy Arabs with serious unaccounted-for issues at a time when Arab interests should be focused primarily on ending the Israeli occupation of Arab territories and safeguarding the national rights of the Palestinian people.

He stressed that Iraq should first respond to Arab demands and then to international demands so that Arab states can restore their unity and solidarity and stand in one line with international legitimacy to press Israel into complying with UN resolutions.

Responding to a question on the stand the Syrian troops would take should a war break out in the region, al-Shar' expressed the hope that war will not break out in the area. He asserted in the meantime that it is the Iraqi leadership which has to make the choice for peace. He said: Unless full withdrawal from Kuwait is achieved, severe tension will persist and Iraq will be vulnerable to the gravest dangers ever. We hope things will not reach that stage, he said.

Al-Shar' added: We want the withdrawal to take place before the deadline stipulated by UN Security Council Resolution 678 so that the Iraqi people can be spared from the hazards involved in implementing that resolution.

Al-Shar' said that these Arab issues [not further specified] will remain unresolved as long as the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait continues. He noted that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad met in Geneva recently with U.S. President George Bush and that they discussed developments concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Syrian president also spoke of the great importance of disassociating the Arab-Israeli conflict from the Gulf crisis. The Syrian president called for agreement on holding an international conference for Middle East peace. Such a conference, President al- Asad maintained, should be held at the appropriate time in order to allow the Arabs time to form a united front and to seek the restoration of the occupied Arab territories and the usurped rights.

Answering a question from the United Arab Emirates news agency [WAM] on Syria's views concerning the regional security arrangements needed to prevent the recurrence of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, al-Shar' said: It is too early to talk about that issue, but we should always think about it and find the best means to protect and safeguard Arab security and interests and to guarantee the stability of the Gulf region. He added that this subject requires careful thinking and preparation.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Interviewed

NC1712155690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1209 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 17 Dec (MENA)—Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, chief of staff of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] Armed Forces, has said that the presence of Egyptian troops in the UAE has helped enhance the defensive capabilities and strengthen morale there.

He said Arabs share one destiny, one future, and the same strategic issues. Hence the UAE stood by Egypt

during the October war; in turn, Egypt is now giving moral and practical support to the UAE.

In an interview with MENA military correspondent 'Adil 'Abd-al-'Aziz, al-Badi said although the Iraqi aggression against a neighboring fraternal Gulf country has shaken national security in the Gulf and caused a schism in the Arab ranks, the Arabs will not lose hope in the future of relations among themselves. He added that Egypt will continue to assume its status in the center of the Arab world, defending and guarding these relations regardless of the harm inflicted on it. [passage omitted]

Maj. Gen. al-Badi pointed out that the Desert Shield forces stationed at the front are composed of Arab Gulf troops, including UAE troops. Therefore, he said, our armed forces will be directly involved in defending the holy lands alongside other Arab troops. In addition to this Arab and Muslim commitment, he said our armed forces have a basic duty to defend UAE territory, a duty they are undertaking at present. He pointed out that the threat involves the UAE as much as it involves Saudi Arabia, despite the geographic considerations. He stressed that defending the holy lands will continue to be an honor for every soldier.

To a question on the proper approach to the crisis and the military option, al-Badi said we would rather let the world explore all other solutions which avert the perils of a military solution, which is bound to bring destruction to the fighters and civilians of both sides, as well as to the great achievements of Arab leaders and peoples in recent years. He added, however, we do not rule out the military solution as the last resort if other approaches fail. [passage omitted]

Responding to a question about possible threats to the Gulf countries, including the UAE, Maj. Gen. al-Badi pointed out that part of the threat has to do with the geographic distance separating the country from the battlefield, and that another part is related to the psychological and moral effects of war. If we set aside the human and material losses to the countries lying directly within the circle of danger, the major threat facing the Gulf countries and the UAE will be that which endangers their people and threatens possible occupation of their lands and exploitation of their wealth, he noted. He also referred to other forms of threats represented by sabotage, assassination, and terrorist teams that could destabilize security in any state. In this context he asked: How can an Arab threaten the security of an Arab brother, leaving the common enemy?

He was asked if the troops already deployed in the UAE are sufficient, or if other troops from any state will be summoned in case the crisis intensifies, to which he replied: We hope everyone will adopt the peaceful approach; however, we will continue to enhance the defensive capabilities of our armed forces in cooperation with brothers and friends. He stressed that Egypt will continue to be a source of support and backing. [passage omitted]

On whether the crisis will lead to enhanced military cooperation between the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], Maj. Gen. al-Badi said the GCC countries stood firmly by the state of Kuwait in its ordeal, giving it moral and practical support and seeking all possible solutions to its problem. He expects this to reflect positively on military cooperation among the GCC countries, saying it will also prompt further development of that cooperation for the sake of more cohesion and coordination.

On the UAE's view of the regional security system necessitated by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, al-Badi feels the idea of setting up a regional security system is not new and was in fact part of the GCC joint defense strategy, which the council's country began to apply in recent years. The new thing is that this system will be further developed. It is not easy, however, to conceive of the form and structure of that system while the crisis still exists, he remarked.

Al-Badi responded to a question on the importance of an Arab military production industry, following the lines of the Arab Industrialization Authority, by saying: We believe in the need for self-reliance, particularly because we have the components needed to develop Arab military industry. Our scientists have demonstrated their ability to learn the secrets of modern technology and accomodate it to the needs of Arab armies. [passage omitted]

On military cooperation between Egypt and the UAE, Maj. Gen. al-Badi stated that military relations between the two countries are firm, growing, and continuous. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Salih, Al-Bid Meet Kuwaiti Delegation

EA1912093390 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] Today brother Lieutenant General Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council, received the Kuwaiti people's delegation led by brother Ahmad al-Saqqaf, which is currently visiting our country. The delegation briefed the brother president and his deputy on the reality of the Kuwaiti people's situation in relation to the present developments in the country as a result of the Gulf crisis, and the nature of the moves of the delegation in a number of Arab countries to explain the situation, so as to crystalize a unified Arab vision to solve the problem peacefully.

The brother chairman of the Presidential Council stressed the principled and firm stand of Yemen with regard to the crisis, based on the nonacceptance of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the rejection of the military presence in the region, and efforts to settle the crisis peacefully within the Arab family. He praised the

level of the warm fraternal relations linking the two brotherly peoples of Yemen and Kuwait.

He stressed that our country would continue to exert its efforts and exploit its fraternal relations with the brothers in Iraq and Kuwait to solve the problem peacefully, in a manner that will keep the region away from the catastrophe of war and destruction; ensure for it security, stability, and peace; ensure the safety of Iraq and Kuwait and all the states of the region; and preserve pan-Arab security and the higher interests of the Arab nation.

The meeting was attended by brothers 'Ali Ahmad al-Sallami, member of the Consultative Assembly; Dr. Husayn al-Amri, Dr. Muhammad al-Qadi, and Ahmad al-Salami, members of the Council of Deputies; and Ibrahim al-Musa, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Sanaa.

Paper on U.S. 'Political Technique' in Middle East

EA1912183690 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1805 GMT 18 Dec 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In the Arab and International Affairs page, the daily newspaper AL-RABI ASHAR MIN UKTUBAR talked about the political activities and military build-up that the United States is striving to establish to guarantee its control of the world's oil wells. In this respect, the newspaper pointed to the political technique of America's Middle East policy, which has been its use of its right of veto more than 150 times to invalidate UN Security Council resolutions, which made these UN resolutions merely ink on paper. The newspaper added: For this reason, America now wants a new stature in the international community, one that is politically, militarily, and diplomatically coordinated and integrated. It prefers this stature to international legitimacy.

The newspaper continues: This American dream was not, however, accomplished because the climate itself opened the door to embarrassment after the voice of a number of Third World states had been raised to expose and reveal this posture in the UN Security Council itself.

The paper adds: No less than 40 million people die of hunger in the Third World in addition to nearly 500 million people who are approaching death because of malnutrition. All this is because of the policies being practised by wealthy states—the states of the North—on poor countries.

The paper added: It is not unusual for America to strive to change the political map in the region so that it becomes harmonious with the new ambitions, and it is not unusual for the United States to strive to postpone resolutions of the UN Security Council, or shelve them as it did previously—but this time, through the blessing of the international climate and international legitimacy. Even if it tries to concoct justifications, redrafting and deleting phrases, the aim is drawn up in advance, which is guaranteeing an American role in the region and guaranteeing the interests of America, whatever the consequences.

President Salih Interviewed on Gulf Crisis

AU1712150890 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 17 Dec 90 pp 142-145

[Interview with 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic of Yemen, by unidentified correspondent in Sanaa; date not given: "We Cannot Be Bought"]

[Text] [DER SPIEGEL] Mr. President, in the UN Security Council, Yemen voted against the ultimatum under which Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait by 15 January. Why?

[Salih] We agreed to all previous Security Council Resolutions against Iraq. However, we were unable to accept this one because we do not want to agree to any resolution leading to war.

[DER SPIEGEL] Do you think you can prevent war in the Gulf by your veto?

[Salih] We are, of course, aware that in the final analysis, it is not our 'no' which will decide whether there will be a war over Kuwait or not. However, being an Arab country, we cannot back a decision that may lead to war against another Arab country, and we intend to do everything in our power to prevent that.

[DER SPIEGEL] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was here in Sanaa recently, and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev sent you a personal letter. Did the two try to make you toe the line, in other words, did they try to persuade you to agree to the ultimatum in the Security Council?

[Salih] Of course, both tried to make us change our mind.

[DER SPIEGEL] Obviously unsuccessfully—despite attractive offers?

[Salih] Our policy is oriented toward the principles of Arab solidarity. We cannot be bought.

[DER SPIEGEL] Were the $25 million that Baker reportedly offered to you too poor a gift?

[Salih] We cannot be bought for any amount of money. Even if they had offered us those $4 billion that a neighbor plans to give a superpower in need, we would not have been ready to alter our position. (DER SPIEGEL footnote: Saudi Arabia promised the Soviet Union a $4 billion credit late in November)

[DER SPIEGEL] But can you afford to demonstrate such pride? Yemen has already suffered more harm from the Gulf crisis than any other country, with the exception of occupied Kuwait. No financial aid has come from the Gulf countries, there are no oil supplies for your refinery in Aden, and tourists have canceled their trips.

[Salih] All that cannot upset our firm conviction that our policy is correct. We will not give up our principles, not even under this massive pressure. We are not so naive as to hope for justice. There is no justice in politics anyway—not in this crisis and not even within the United Nations Organization. There is neither justice nor ethics nor common sense.

[DER SPIEGEL] That sounds bitter.

[Salih] Look, since 2 August, this Gulf crisis has cost all parties involved $78 billion. If the oil shaykhdoms had given the Iraqis but a fraction of this sum—say, $10 billion—when they negotiated with them on the oil losses, this conflict would not have developed.

[DER SPIEGEL] Perhaps it is still possible to prevent a war—if the aggressor gives in.

[Salih] Oh, who cares about international law and ethics anyway? Don't people much rather care about solid interests? Political, economic, and military interests? How about the Palestinian people's rights and the ethical principles in this respect? How about the iron determination to carry out the UN Security Council resolutions under any circumstances? Why is there such an unexpected international solidarity in the case of Kuwait, of all countries? Did anyone care about Cyprus—where an aggression comparable to this one took place? Is it because Kuwait has oil, whereas Cyprus has only tomatoes?

[DER SPIEGEL] For how long will you be able to stand the actual boycott by your neighbors? How do you cope with the one million involuntary returnees whom Saudi Arabia deported across the border in recent months?

[Salih] You should know that the deportation of Yemenis from Saudi Arabia has nothing to do with the Gulf crisis.

[DER SPiEGEL) But what is the real reason?

[Salih] The Saudis admitted long ago that the crisis is just a pretext to settle other accounts.

[DER SPIEGEL] Why should the Saudis have an interest in bullying their Yemeni neighbor? Riyadh was even trying to prevent the reunification of the two Yemens by making billion-dollar promises. And it apparently also wants to instigate the tribes in the north of your country against the government.

[Salih] I would very much like to answer this question; however, we have concluded a gentlemen's agreement with the Saudis to discontinue our mutual campaign. I beg you to understand this. You may ask questions about anything, but not about Saudi Arabia.

[DER SPIEGEL] On 22 May, Yemen was reunited after a long time of often hostile division—just like Germany. At this very time when you need all the resources to solve the problems involved, you are plunging into economic difficulties because of the Gulf crisis with which you have actually nothing to do—and that with foreign debts totaling $7 billion.

[Salih] Actually, this crisis is welding us together. The Yemeni people are wide-awake on account of the events, and they are watching very closely who is now plotting against Yemen, and is trying to destroy its unity again. Without this conflict, unity would perhaps be even more fragile ....

[DER SPIEGEL] ... and your adversaries could try, as they did in the past, to play off the two Yemens against each other.

[Salih] Exactly. That would have led nowhere in the past. However, now we are united. It is true that no money is coming in from the Gulf any more, and we have debts totaling $7 billion. However, we have very large resources that we have not yet exploited. International firms have finally begun to drill for oil in our country, and promising resources have already been found. By the year 2000, we will extract two billion barrels of oil every day. There are huge gas fields for our own energy requirements.

[DER SPIEGEL] All that may take quite some time.

[Salih] Certainly, and that is why we are expecting major difficulties in the next two years. However, after that, things will improve. We are a poor and modest people, we are not as spoiled as others. We are doing our work ourselves, we do not need foreigners for that.

[DER SPIEGEL] Could your neighbors' hostility against the reunited Yemen have something to do with the fear of too strong a state in the southern tip of Arabia?

[Salih] That may very well be the case—but I am not naming any names. In addition, there may be plots and interests of certain secret services which pretend that the united Yemen represents a threat to the region. The contrary is correct: The unity of Yemen, which has finally been achieved, does not constitute a threat but is a stabilizing factor for the whole region. We have no aggressive intentions—against no one.

[DER SPIEGEL] However, there is an unresolved border issue involving, after all, a territory as large as one third of the present Yemeni territory. A decision will have to be made on this problem within four years at the latest.

[Salih] That is so, and I do not hesitate at this point to give names. The problem is the disputed border with Saudi Arabia. The government of the united Yemen has officially stated that it not only intends to discuss this problem with Saudi Arabia alone, but plans to bring it before all appropriate international bodies, if necessary. We have legally and historically founded claims to this territory, and that must be negotiated.

[DER SPIEGEL] How was the unexpected reunification of Yemen brought about that quickly? It seemed to go

more smoothly than in Germany, even though North and South Yemen were no less hostile toward each other than East and West Germany.

[Salih] Every country has its own way. We pursued the way of dialogue between equals. You were doing it differently. You came with your money and told the East Germans: Now we are buying you, and that's it. In contrast, we, the Yemenis, were desperately poor—both in the North and in the South.

[DER SPIEGEL] The people here are apparently more satisfied with their regained unity than the Germans. Nobody here complains about the costs.

[Salih] You are generally thinking more about money. Everything has its price. But what reason should the West Germans have for being sad? You have got all of East Germany for your money. Isn't that a good deal?

[DER SPIEGEL] Back to the Gulf conflict. Do you expect positive results to come from the planned direct talks between the United States and Iraq?

[Salih] I am sure they may contribute toward the relaxation of the situation. My deputy and our foreign minister flew to Baghdad to discuss possibilities with the Iraqi government of making these contacts successful. We will contribute our share, be it in the Security Council, be it in bilateral talks.

[DER SPIEGEL] What are your possibilities, do you think?

[Salih] We could do more if it was still an Arab conflict; however, it became a U.S.-Iraqi conflict long ago. Therefore, we can only urge these two states time and again to try and find a peaceful solution.

[DER SPIEGEL] And if you do not succeed?

[Salih] Then it would be a catastrophe for all because there can be no winner.

People's Congress Official Meets Libyan Delegation

EA1912192290 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Excerpt] A meeting was held yesterday at the National Charter Institute in Sanaa between the General People's Congress [GPC] headed by Brother Dr. Ahmad al-Asbahi, member of the Advisory Council, and the GPC of the sisterly Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, headed by Brother Sulayman al-Shuhumi, secretary of People's Committee Affairs. In addition to discussing organizational relations between the two GPC's and ways of strengthening them, views were exchanged during the meeting on various Arab and international issues, particularly the Gulf crisis and its developments.

The two sides stressed their rejection of the annexation of territories by force and of the foreign presence in the region. They stressed the need for efforts to solve the crisis by peaceful means within the Arab framework and the need to cause the language of dialogue and understanding to triumph over the language of force and violence. The two sides called on the United States to deal with all the issues of the region in accordance with a single criterion and focus.

The two sides hailed the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, which entered its fourth year firmer, abler, and more vigorous in its confrontation with the Zionist machine of suppression and tyranny.

The Libyan side hailed the establishment of the Yemeni Republic, which represented the zenith of the pan-Arab victory of the Arab civilizational plan and a living democratic model of the achievement of comprehensive Arab unity. [passage omitted]

Food Aid Grant Agreement Signed With Japan

EA1912190290 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Excerpt] A memorandum of understanding was signed today at the Ministry of Planning and Development between our country and the Japanese Government. It provides for a Japanese Government grant of 500 million Japanese yen, the equivalent of $3.8 million. This amount will be earmarked for a project for increasing food prodion. [passage omitted]

Saddam on Prospects for Peace, U.S. Talks

TA1912213390 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Interview with President Saddam Husayn by Mehmet Ali Birand at Saddam's palace in Baghdad; date not given—recorded, Saddam in Arabic with superimposed Turkish translation]

[Text] [Birand] How would you describe the current situation? Have we entered a negotiating process or is there still the possibility of war? Which has more of a chance? War or peace? Is there still the possibility of a war at this stage?

[Saddam] If you are asking us this question, we want peace. We want to live honorably. We do not want the armies of Bush to come and occupy our sacred territories. The decision, however, depends on the opposing side. On the one hand, there are international tyrants and on the other, those in the region. We want peace. If we are faced with an attack, then we are ready to crush it.

[Birand] Earlier you had said fifty-fifty [last two words in English]. If you were to make another guess now, what would you say?

[Saddam] In general, the assessment of the situation remains the same. There is still a chance for peace instead of war. If the opposing side, however, opts for war, then the situation changes. We do not want war. We have exerted efforts to prevent a war. We have made many overtures. These efforts, however, should not be left entirely to Iraq. Here Turkey also has a responsibility to maintain peace. If Turkey opposes war as well, if Turkey convinces the United States in that direction, then the chances for peace can further be strengthened. We all [words indistinct]. Yes to friendship and no to aggression. Yes to peace, and no to war. [words indistinct] He was going to explain Iraq's views and stand to Bush. He was going to explain the reasons that led to 2 August and help him understand us. He was going to listen to President Bush. For a dialogue to be successful, the two sides should be well acquainted with each other's views. Dialogue helps people understand one another and keeps war at bay.

[Birand] Mr. President, the United States, however, claims that these are not negotiations. The United States says that Tariq 'Aziz will be informed about the resolutions adopted by the United Nations. You claim that these are negotiations, that this is a dialogue. This is also what you have said just now. If both sides reiterate their own stance, what can come out of these meetings? Does this not mean that there is no point to this meeting?

[Saddam] There is a difference between holding a dialogue and giving directives. We will not receive directives from Washington. We said so earlier and we are repeating it now. The UN Security Council is doing whatever the United States says. Everyone, including Turkey, is aware of this reality. We have rejected the resolutions the United States has made the Security Council adopt, because they were not just and equitable. As a matter of fact, Bush's duty cannot be to repeat these resolutions to us. Had this been necessary, the UN secretary general or the pertinent UN offices would have done so. We accepted this thinking that President Bush wanted to start a serious dialogue. In a dialogue, the sides act to find grounds for agreement. If this is not the intention of the United States, then we will reach the conclusion that this appeal was made in a bid to cover the murders it will commit in the future.

[Birand] Meanwhile, the thing that drew the most attention was the intercapital visits of Algerian President Bendjedid. Can these contacts yield results? Is there a hope of a last minute solution among the Arabs?

[Saddam] The Arabs can always resolve their problems among themselves. As a matter of fact, they can do that better than others. We prefer the solution of intra-Arab problems among the Arabs themselves, because the Arabs can protect their interests better than can the foreigners. Outsiders watch out for their own interests. In other words, the Arabs would be the losers. Foreigners, however, do not want the Arabs to solve their differences among themselves. Had Bendjedid been given a chance and had the grounds for a solution been prepared, then the Arab leaders would have exerted serious efforts in that direction.

[Birand] Mr. President, there is a lot of speculation; many different scenarios are being prepared. According to one of the most popular scenarios, you will announce, in principle, that you will withdraw from Kuwait and that negotiations on the Palestinian and Kuwaiti issues will begin simultaneously. In parallel with these negotiations, the withdrawal will start. Eventually al-Rumaylah and the islands of Bubiyan and Warbah will be left to Iraq. As for the Palestinian issue, a conference will begin with the participation of the PLO as well. What do you think of this scenario? If we speculate, do you think it is satisfactory?

[Saddam] You should ask this question to the Turkish Foreign Ministry. Let them come up with the documents concerning Kuwait. Then you can see that Kuwait is a part of Iraq and that it was split up by the British. The Ottomans did not object in 1913. The British declared this region, which was surrounded by ramparts, to be under their mandate. The West declared Kuwait a state in 1961. It was not given back to Iraq because the Iraqi Administration was pro-Soviet. That same year, when Kuwait became a UN member, the Iraqi delegation withdrew from the Assembly and refused to recognize the State of Kuwait. The subsequent Iraqi Administrations, be they presidents or monarchs, pro-Western or Eastern, also refused to recognize Kuwait. The border could not be drawn. This is the reality about Kuwait. If you want to investigate, you can ask the Turkish Foreign Ministry. They have the documents.

As for the Palestinian problem, you are well aware that Palestine is Arab. Palestine belongs to the Palestinians. The Palestinian people have been thrown from their land. Palestine was occupied by the Zionists. We are not putting forward this problem because of the Gulf crisis. We are reiterating the realities we have heard and believed since childhood. If the world is so concerned about security and peace in this region, then everyone should make sacrifices, because there are significant links among all the problems of the region. If peace is to be established, then it will be established in all fields. If the UN Security Council resolutions on the Gulf issue are to be implemented, then the long-standing resolutions dealing with the Palestinian issue should take precedence. If this is not implemented, then those who speak about respecting the United Nations and international law will be holding double standards. In other words, they remember these laws when they serve their own interests and conveniently forget them when it comes to the usurped rights of the Arabs. I have extended my reply because the Turkish people are our friends. They should be fully acquainted with our problem.

[Birand] Mr. President, you have placed at the top of the agenda the Palestinian problem, which has not been touched for the last 23 years. Even those who are against you have a certain affinity to your approach to the issue. You have established a link between Kuwait and the Palestinian issue. Now you want the resolution of all regional problems when it comes to a withdrawal from Kuwait. Actually, does this link not work against the Palestinian problem? Are you not further delaying the solution of the Palestinian problem? You will, at some stage, also have to show some flexibility. If you want a conciliation, then you will also have to show some flexibility.

[Saddam] The question that has been raised is the Arab question. If, however, foreigners are to interfere in regional security and the implementation of international law, then the Palestinian question should have priority. If the foreigners who wish to be involved in the Gulf crisis do not respect international law, then they do not have the right to interfere in this problem either. The only way to be just is to implement the UN Security Council resolutions and to secure the immediate resolution of the Palestinian problem. Otherwise, no one will listen to them. Those who advocate a respect for laws should, above all, abide by them. If they do not show this respect when it comes to the Palestinian and Lebanese problems, then it becomes evident that they are using these laws in a bid to return to the region and to protect their own interests. The Arab nation will oppose such moves.

[Birand] In your 12 August statement, you said that certain adjustments might be made. This meant that there was an open door. Now, however, I see that you are adopting a stand that might be a closing of that door.

[Saddam] I have said all I have to say. I have spoken most clearly. Our army did not go into Kuwait to create a problem. It went in order to put an end to tyranny. The Kuwaiti administrators, acting on behalf of Zionism and the United States, plotted against Iraq. They oppressed us economically and politically. Iraq first warned them. No one paid attention. Then we were forced to adopt this position. Had the United States not sent troops to the region, the situation would have been totally different. Had our historic rights not been so obvious, we would not have found in ourselves the strength to act against the United States and its allies. We, therefore, annexed Kuwait and declared it our 19th province.

[Birand] Mr. President, do you want to tell me that this business is finished, Kuwait is now part of Iraq, and that you will not even negotiate on this issue?

[Saddam] In my previous reply I said that Kuwait is a part of Iraq. Now Kuwait is Iraq's 19th province. This is the reality of Kuwait. We live with this reality, we believe in it, and we defend it. We might even make sacrifices for this cause. If, however, the world wants to implement international law in a way that suits it and if it wants to solve all problems in accordance with its principles, if it wants to view the Security Council through the eyes of the United States, then this is not acceptable. All problems should be solved in an equitable manner. All the UN resolutions must be respected and they must all be implemented. Only then can the United States find followers in the Arab world. It will hear all the Arabs saying: Leave us alone, withdraw from the sacred Muslim territories. We say that regional problems cannot be solved through double standards and double principles but through a single standard. If this is to be realized, then everyone might have to make a sacrifice. If such a sacrifice is necessary, Iraq is ready to fulfill its share of responsibilities. We, therefore, thought that our 12 August statement was a correct initiative toward the solution of all the problems. We still hold the same views.

[Birand] If we look at Turkish-Iraqi relations, Turkey has always given Iraq a special place. You know of Turkey's position during the Iraq-Iran war. In a way, with the credits it extended to Iraq, with its position, Turkey has always looked after Iraq's interests indirectly. The Gulf crisis changed radically the direction of these relations. Let us put aside the past and look at the future. How do you see the future of these relations?

[Saddam] When I was in elementary school, I grew up learning how good the relations between Turkey and Iraq were. From the day the Iraqi state was established, our relations, be they neighborly relations or be it cooperation, were always good. Mr. Ozal knows this very well. Mr. Ecevit and all the Turkish politicians know this. From the day we came to power, we took positive steps in Turkish-Iraqi relations, in our cooperation. In other words, the relations between the two countries were good not only during the war with Iran, but long before that. This is not new. There was extensive economic cooperation between the two countries, and they supported each other. If one side wanted to sell goods to the other

and if the other side did not have the means to pay immediately, they made easy terms. Regardless of the direction you looked at the relations, political or economic, they were good. Sometimes, we gave Turkey easy terms, and sometimes they did to us. All this was an expression of sincerity on both sides.

[Birand] What will happen from now on? These relations must resume where they left off, because both Turkey and Iraq need good-neighborly relations. You need us and we need you. Two countries that are neighbors must have good relations. How can these good relations be restored before the Gulf crisis is resolved?

[Saddam] Relations between Turkey and Iraq have always developed favorably; therefore, Turkey should not have placed itself in the current situation. We have enemies among us. Some of them are instigating some Turkish politicians to take a stand against Arabs. Turkey must not take sides in inter-Arab problems. On the contrary, it must play the role of a brother, not another role. It must play the role not of a side, but of a brother; then, that stand will be appreciated. Let me give you an example. As you know, Iraq did not take a stand against Turkey in connection with Cyprus. It did not oppose Turkey and did not try to exploit an opportunity. It continued to act as a friend. If Turkey wants to support one side, it must support Iraq; then its position will be understood by all, and it will gain the friendship of everyone. You used to always have the same approach in connection with the Arabs. You used to have a friendly and brotherly approach. When you had a different view, you used to express this view without damaging your relations with your neighbors or with the regional countries.

[Birand] Mr. President, no matter how you justify your act, no matter how you explain this Kuwait issue with historical facts, in the end we are faced with the occupation of an independent UN member country, a country with whom you used to exchange ambassadors. How could you expect Turkey, a country in such a geographic place, such a close neighbor, to act differently?

[Saddam] I told you of historical facts which you are aware of as well, and I told you why we acted as we did. Look, there are two countries that are familiar with the truth about Kuwait. One of them is Turkey and the other is Britain. If Turkey or another country would call on us to respect international law, we would understand that. However, Turkey has a privilege; it is our neighbor, and it is a Muslim country. Our relations have always been good.

I want to give you an example. The Turkish defense minister declared that the Turkish Army is consolidating troops in the southeast against a possible attack from Iraq. Who could expect such a statement, at such a time, from a neighboring country with whom relations have developed so well for years? Would such a statement not hurt or disturb? Has Iraq ever attacked Turkey, that it should consider such a thing now?

Now let us look at another stand, at Iran's position. As you know, we fought with Iran for exactly eight years. In spite of that, look what the Iranian foreign minister said in France. He said: We do not act against Iraq.

Now compare the two statements. How would you view such a statement from Turkey? Our complaint is not about Turkey's approval or disapproval of a situation that may or may not be legal; it is about its stand that goes beyond approval or disapproval. On the other hand, the U.S. Air Force, which will attack Iraq, might come from Turkey. This is an amazing situation both for me and for all the Iraqis, for the Muslims.

[Birand] If you look at the map, you are a country that has problems with its neighbors—with Iran, Syria, and finally Kuwait. Also, you have a significant armament policy. For example, the most simple case, you have a 2,000-km al-Tamuz missile. Why do you need this? Whom are you defending yourself against? This increases fears and concern in Turkey and in other regional countries, because your arms buildup exceeds defense needs. What is your aim? Do you want to be the leader of all the Arab countries? What is your target?

[Birand] When Iraq did not have even a 400-km aircraft, Turkey had aircraft exceeding the 800-km range. In other words, your aircraft could fly 800 km and return. However, Iraq was not afraid of Turkey. It did not have fears, it was not concerned. It was not disturbed by Turkey's arms buildup. While Turkey had more than 50 divisions in its ground force, we had only seven divisions. Despite that, Iraq was not concerned. Meanwhile, news agencies say that the United States will give Turkey weapons worth $7 billion. We are still unconcerned, because when there is no ill will and when the hearts are united, we consider the arms buildup of Muslim countries as power for all of us. No matter if it is Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, or others. So, if Iraq has a missile, why should Turkey be worried? Turkey is not Iraq's enemy and Iraq is not Turkey's enemy. The Arabs are not Turkey's enemy, and Turkey is not the Arabs' enemy. Since it gained its independence, Turkey is a friend and neighbor. Instead of fearing a neighbor with whom it does business with mutual respect, Turkey should worry about Israel's nuclear bomb. We do not understand how Turkey can ignore the past and worry. We do not believe that any Turkish citizen or official can worry about Iraq's arms buildup. Our arms buildup is not against Turkey; it is only for defense.

If you want to learn the details of this, ask Mr. Ozal. He knows very well our relations with our neighbors, that we are not aggressive, that we are peaceful. I know his assessment. If the intention is to call our stand aggressive, it has nothing to do with our stand. I do not understand how a Turk can ask such a question. Our relations must always be fruitful. We are still hopeful about that. We are doing all we can to achieve that. We are ignoring the recent past. We do not want to dwell on the problems, because the future is much more important for everyone concerned.

[Birand] Mr. President, we thank you for receiving us, for giving us such a long time.

[Saddam] Thank you. Please convey our regards to the Turkish people.

Measures Against 'Chemical Agents' Announced

JN2012120290

[Editorial Report] Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic at 1620 GMT on 19 December carries the following announcement:

"Dear citizen, what do you do if you sense the presence of a poisonous chemical agent in your area when inside a building?

Close all openings, such as doors, windows, and ventilation, outlets, and close the curtains.

Use a dampened piece of cloth to close the small openings through which chemical agents may enter. In case you find it difficult to close windows fully, move to a room whose outlets you can close tightly.

Avoid smoking inside the room or the building. Do not try to leave your location before you receive instructions from the competent authorities.

We wish you safety."

Saddam Meets Senior Officials 20 Dec

JN2012112490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1116 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn this morning met with a number of the Revolution Command Council and Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command members.

People Asked To Store Fuel in Case of Attack

JN1912201390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] The Iraqi Oil Ministry asked Iraqi citizens today to store oil by-products, especially kerosene, gasoline, and diesel oil, for fear of U.S. attack on Iraqi oil installations. In a terse statement published in Iraqi papers today, the ministry said that it asks the citizens and all dealers to store their oil reserves this season, hoping that everyone will cooperate to reduce the effects of any possible attack on our [Iraqi] oil installations.

Amnesty International 'Allegations' Denied

JN1912193590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1918 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] London, 19 Dec (INA)—The Iraqi Embassy in London has categorically denied the allegations made by Amnesty International on Iraq in a report it released yesterday.

A press statement issued by the Iraqi Embassy in London today in response to Amnesty International's allegations said that the allegations listed by Amnesty International are totally groundless. The statement added that Amnesty International failed in its report to mention that hundreds of Iraqi children are dying en masse as a result of the acute shortage of baby's milk and medicine because of the unjust economic blockade enforced against Iraq.

In its statement, the Iraqi Embassy expressed the hope that Amnesty International will, in future, carefully examine facts provided by neutral parties, and not by parties located in a region in which foreign troops poised against Iraq are being concentrated.

Paper Comments on 'Failure' of U.S. Intelligence

JN1612101690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the failure of U.S. intelligence to penetrate the Iraqi national security defenses has forced the Bush administration to think about committing an armed attack against it.

In an analysis of two articles run in last week's NEWSWEEK on the scarce intelligence information available to Washington about Iraq, the paper clarifies: The U.S. Administration is used to dealing with exposed and penetrable regimes, and it considers itself in a dilemma when it deals with countries where it cannot find people whom it can buy to supply it with the information which Washington uses to fight their homeland.

AL-THAWRAH criticizes the U.S. approach and calls it unethical. It says that the successive imperialist administrations think that they have the right to know everything that is going on in the world. They have often resorted to buying consciences, recruiting spies, giving bribes, and pursuing channels that are supposed to have nothing to do with spying, such as the field information and those working in it, for example, to spy on other countries.

In addition the NEWSWEEK article stressed that: U.S. intelligence lacks a great deal of information about Iraq, the Israeli sources are of no avail and provide very little that is worth mentioning, and the U.S. intelligence elements have not reached up to the capabilities of the Iraqi security organs.

Talk on 'Debauchery' of U.S. Soldiers in Egypt

JN2012104590 Baghdad Voice of Arab Awakening in Arabic to Saudi Arabia 2030 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Directed at Arab soldiers—unattributed talk]

[Text] Brother honorable Egyptian soldier: This talk is especially addressed to you, and to your brother the chivalrous Egyptian officer.

Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism and aviation in the Husni government, has announced that members of the U.S. forces which have occupied the Arabian Peninsula will spend their vacation in Egypt. You, brother honorable Egyptian soldier, know the American soldier, his conduct, and morals. You are also aware of his profligacy, debauchery, and arrogance. Also, you know what it means for the American soldier to spend a vacation after the deprivation he has suffered in this arid desert. Certainly, the American soldier will not devote his vacation to praying at al-Azhar [Mosque] or to worshipping his God in al-Husayn [Mosque]. Rather, his concern would be to satisfy his animalistic instincts. So, instead of visiting an Egyptian museum to see the marvels there, his steps will lead him to the nearest nightclub. And, instead of visiting the pyramids, he will spend his night at al-Haram Street. But, is that all? This soldier who brags about his American nationality and plenty of dollars will turn all Cairo and Alexandria—in fact, all of Egypt—into a place similar to al-Haram Street. He will also learn his way to furnished apartments.

If Husni's jealousy accepts this situation, does yours accept it? If Husni's gallantry accepts this situation, does yours accept it? Is it not enough that Egypt is a fertile ground for Israel's spies, for Husni to bring in the infantry of U.S. Navy?

Brother Egyptian soldier: We have known you to be gallant, honorable, and unyielding. We have known you to be that true peasant who was not corrupted by the values of openness. We have known you to be the jealous son of the neighborhood who defends the honor of all the women of the neighborhood. So, do not accept to be here subject to death at any moment, while a worthless American soldier is spreading corruption there.

No, the entire Egypt of God will not be turned into a furnished apartment.

Bush 'Thwarting' Peace; War 'Inevitable'

JN2012125690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has accused U.S. President Bush of thwarting every Iraqi endeavor for peace and insisting on the option of armed aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The paper, reflecting the views of the Defense Ministry, says in its editorial today that the Bush administration has ignored all Iraq's peaceful overtures and its readiness for dialogue and negotiations on all problems of the region, including the Gulf crisis, in accordance with their positions on the priority list.

The paper focuses on Bush's attempts to impose capitulatory conditions on Iraq and the Arab nation, his persistence in the hostile imperialist policy, disdain for Arab rights, continued violation of Arab sovereignty, and usurpation of Arab rights to their own lands and wealth.

From these facts, AL-QADISIYAH concludes that war is inevitable and says: Iraq has given peace every chance it deserves, and has repeatedly proved that it is seeking peace, even if it meant making a sacrifice for its sake. But given the U.S.-Western insistence on war and aggression, Iraq will not hesitate to engage in confrontation and fighting to destroy the invading forces.

The paper stresses that our Armed Forces are ready to deter any U.S. aggression and are continuing to reinforce their strike force for the crucial battle. This battle will extend [word indistinct] to affect any party that will contribute to the aggresion on Iraq, particularly Israel.

The paper stresses that the dens of evil in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and in the region will be steady targets for our destructive weapons, and that the Iraqi Army will fight in a unique manner and be engaged in a battle that will be neither limited in time or place, nor confined to conventional [weapons] [lan takun mahdudah taqlidiyan].

Editorial Says Baghdad Ready for Battle

JN2012104090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has stressed that Iraq has completed its readiness for the major and crucial battle, and that nothing will prevent it from achieving its noble goals.

In its editorial today, the paper says Iraq neither commits aggression against anyone nor allows anyone to commit aggression against it and against the rights of Arabs and Muslims to a free and developing life. Furthermore, Iraq will not allow anyone, whoever he may be, to scorn its sanctities and those of the Arabs and Muslims.

The paper advises the U.S. President and all his allies and aides not to delude themselves into thinking that threats by Bush or his small agents can drive Iraq to back down, to concede its rights and those of the Arab nation, or to get involved in cheap bargains over this or that issue. Let Bush and his allies know, says paper, that Iraq will not deviate from the course it has chosen.

AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that Palestine is the key to any solution. Our motto is: Palestine comes first. Bush and his allies should know that usurped Kuwait has been regained; it has returned, free and pure, to join its dear and strong mother as the 19th governorate. [passage omitted]

U.S. 'Invasion' Provokes Arabs and Muslims

JN1912200390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih met today with an Australian peace delegation led by Klari Isaks, head of Aborigine affairs [name and title as received], the indigenous population of Australia, and his delegation.

The National Assembly speaker said that the United States, by its invasion of the holy lands in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] had provoked the sentiments of Arabs and Muslims all over the world. He added: The United States is making claims about the protection of human rights and the vindication of international legitimacy in a bid to conceal its efforts to impose imperialist hegemony over the world economies and peoples' resources.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih said the Iraqi people's faith in peace and in the need to pursue the path of quiet dialogue so as to strengthen the foundations of a just and comprehensive peace in the region in a manner that would serve the cause of humanity and the interests of all peoples.

Klari Isaks expressed the Australian peace-loving forces' understanding of Iraq's peaceful policies and of its desire to see security, stability, and peace prevail in the Middle East region and the world. He said that the world public has become convinced now more than ever before that the Iraqi leadership and people have been trying to avert war and bring about peace. He added that this desire for peace has been made clear through the numerous peace initiatives launched by Iraq so far.

Paper Says Nation 'Ready for All Eventualities'

JN1912103290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0724 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has said that if armed confrontation was imposed on Iraq, then all the accumulated accounts that harmed the sons of the Arab nation will be settled in this confrontation.

In its editorial today, the paper stresses that at the forefront of those that will be punished is the Zionist entity, which should expect strong and severe punishment after it has continued its usurpation of the rights of the Arabs and sons of the Palestinian people and perpetrated the most heinous crimes against the children of Palestine.

The paper affirms that the pan-Arab duty in the crucial battle necessitates severing the rotten heads of the traitors such as Fahd and Husni, correcting all the historical mistakes of the disgusting colonialist partitioning [of the Arab homeland], and returning the usurped rights to their rightful owners through a fair distribution of oil wealth.

AL-'IRAQ adds: The battlefield will be in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and wherever dens of evil and aggression may exist. It warns that all American and Zionist interests all over the world will be targeted.

Concluding, the paper says: By all this, the spotlight is becoming clearer between the war and peace options to identify the features of the new world system. Iraq is ready for all eventualities. If the U.S. Administration and its allies opt for peace, then deep, serious, and comprehensive dialogue is the best means. However, if Bush opts for war, Iraq is fully ready for confrontation.

State Said To Offer 500 Tonnes of Dates to USSR

JN1912192590 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 17 Dec 90 p 6

[Text] The Iraqi Red Crescent Society has offered to donate 500 tonnes of Iraqi dates of good quality as a gift from the Iraqi people to the friendly Soviet people.

In a statement to INA [IRAQI NEWS AGENCY], society chairman Dr. Ibrahim al-Nuri said that this gift is offered to honor the spirit of traditional friendship between the peoples of the two friendly countries.

Ibrahim al-Nuri added that the Soviets have been notified of the offer.

Press Agency Reacts to VOA Story on Soviets

JN2012064590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2110 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] The IRAQI NEWS AGENCY [INA] international affairs editor has ridiculed what was broadcast today by the Voice of America within the framework of the campaign of deception and lies organized and led by the American and Zionist media: Namely, that Vitaliy Churkin, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, said that his government warned all Soviet nationals of the danger of staying in Iraq. According to the broadcast, he said that we explained to them that their staying there will be very dangerous.

In his commentary today, the editor asserted that the spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry did not speak as cited by the Voice of America, but said verbatim: Iraq's radio broadcast a statement by Iraqi Industry Minister Husayn Kamil Hasan, in which he said that Iraq will allow the Soviet experts working there to travel as they wish regardless of the completion of their contracts. We view this statement as an assertion of the pledges made to us previously by the Iraqi authorities. Our plans, the Soviet spokesman continued, to evacuate the Soviet nationals from Iraq are laid down so that all of them can return to the homeland by 15 January. There is planning, in particular, to arrange for two or three special flights on large passengers planes, in addition to the two weekly Aeroflot flights to Baghdad. All issues related to this matter are now being discussed by Soviet representatives with the authorities in Iraq.

The INA editor said: The spokesman for the Soviet Embassy in Baghdad yesterday affirmed to AFP that the approximately 2,565 Soviet nationals in Iraq have full freedom to travel or stay. In response to some press reports that Baghdad is preventing the Soviets from returning to their homeland, the spokesman said that Iraqi authorities are not hindering any Soviet from returning to his country and that the Soviets are being given the freedom to travel or stay in Baghdad.

The INA international affairs editor recalled Iraq's 5 December decision allowing all Soviets to leave—which came before Iraq's decision to allow all guests to leave or stay. The editor referred to the statements made earlier by Soviet envoy Yevgeniy Primakov, in which he said that about 1,000 of Soviet experts prefer to stay in Iraq because they are interested in completing their tasks and contracts. The editor affirmed that, having reached such a low level of falsifications and lies, the campaign of propaganda fabrication led by the United States and Zionism has reached the point of deliberately misquoting the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman for the known objective of attempting to undermine the humanitarian measures and decisions adopted by the Iraqi leadership to maintain the course of the traditional friendship binding us with the people of the Soviet Union.

Concluding his statement, the INA international affairs editor denounced the U.S. mass media's obvious attempts, which are part of the psychological considerations adopted by this lying radio, the Voice of America. The editor stated that this radio has become so ridiculous that it is losing its credibility completely—not only among its citizens, but before the entire world.

Paper Regrets Europe's 'Ignorance' of U.S. Aims

JN1912082890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0716 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has criticized the hypocritical policy adopted by some international sides to satisfy the U.S. Administration.

In its editorial today, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Hypocrisy makes these states deviate from the true view of their interests and those of their peoples. It also makes them submit to the American will in determining many of their stands.

The paper expresses regret over several European states' ignorance of the White House's endeavor to impose the United States' hegemony over the world and to enslave it. It says: Washington does not link its interests to the region or consider it the region that includes its most vital interests except to impose hegemony over oil fields and oil markets so as to control the European states' future and to suppress their aspirations for unity and for playing a greater role in the world system.

AL-JUMHURIYAH notes that Iraq does not find in the position of America's allies, puppets, and followers anything that could affect its position and strong will. It says: Iraq has prepared itself for the great fighting in the crucial battle and has completed its preparations in all the military and psychological fields. The paper ridicules some international sides' ignorance of the facts of events, saying: Those who enjoy the continuation of the hypocritical policy are standing in the trench of the American-Zionist aggression—the aggression which should expect from us surprises that include many of our invisible capabilities, which the aggressive alliance does not know about.

Editor on 'Odious' Statements by Saudi Minister

JN1612143790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1343 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—Responding to odious statements by the defense minister of the betrayer of the two holy mosques in which he gave vent to his hate for Iraq's leadership, Army, and heroic people, the INA's political affairs editor writes:

These silly remarks reflect trembling souls sheltering behind the spears of American and foreign forces. When the time for battle comes, Khalid Ibn-Sultan [name as received] will not find a hiding place.

Being a lackey for the Americans and foreigners, he will be on the run from the Arab people and Muslims.

The INA's political editor adds: Neither their hideouts nor American spears will protect the boastful betrayers of the nation in the battle between the forces of faith and infidelity. The Army of al-Qadisiyah will be the strike force to teach such agents the lessons they deserve, and history will stigmatize them and equate them with Abu-Raghal, who has come to be associated in Arab minds with treason and baseness for having shown foreign infidels the way to Mecca.

U.S. Group Says Children Suffering in Hospitals

JN1912204690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1927 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—A delegation of the Iraqi-U.S. cultural association has renewed its solidarity with and support for the Iraqi people in their sincere endeavors to establish a just and comprehensive peace and avert war, which is abhorred by all peoples as a way of resolving regional problems.

At a news conference attended by foreign and local newspaper correspondents and also by INA, the delegation said that it found out through its visit to Iraq that the Iraqi people, who take pride in their self-esteem and dignity desire to achieve a durable peace through negotiations and dialogue to resolve all regional problems on the basis of justice, equality, and mutual respect among peoples.

The delegation condemned the anti-Iraq economic blockade, which violates human rights. The delegation said it had visited hospitals in Baghdad and saw for itself the suffering of innocent Iraqi children as a result of the shortage of medicines, food, and milk.

The delegation expressed its thanks and gratitude to the Iraqi leadership and people for giving it the opportunity to acquaint itself with the situation as it is and also to have a firsthand knowledge of the facts. It added that it

will make efforts to explain the falsification of events and misrepresentation of facts carried out by Western news media.

Ramadan Meets With Philippine Peace Group

JN1912165090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, has said that the force the United States is threatening to use will be obliterated by Iraqi might and mass uprisings in the Arab arena.

During a meeting today with a peace delegation of the Philippine National Democratic Front [NDF] led by Louis Jalandoni [name as received], deputy chairman of the NDF's Foreign Relations Bureau, Ramadan added that Bush's lusts for hegemony over peoples' resources, freedom, and independence will be entombed in this battle if he were to be involved in igniting it.

Ramadan added that the Iraqis under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn seek a true, just, and comprehensive peace. He said that they have provided and continue to provide practical and documented evidence of their desire to achieve a just peace in the region and resolve all regional problems, including the president's initiative of 12 August.

The Philippine NDF delegation affirmed that free peoples know that the United States is the enemy of peoples and that it uses its might to enslave them and plunder their wealth. It said that the age of hegemony, injustice, and humiliation will come to an end and that all forces hostile to peace and security will be defeated.

The delegation added that U.S. interests and military bases in the Philippines will be exposed to attacks by the Philippine NDF if they are used to launch an aggression against Iraq, to show the NDF's political and military solidarity with the Iraqi people in their defense of their rights.

Ba'th Official Says Kuwait Move 'Preemptive'

JN1912164290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1205 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—Ilyas Farah, official in charge of the External Relations Bureau at the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has said that Iraq's confrontation of imperialist and Zionist forces under the wise and courageous leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn is a historic one meant to serve the Arab nation's future and meet its legitimate aspirations.

During a meeting with a delegation of the Philippine National Democratic Front led by Louis Jalandoni, deputy chairman of the front's Foreign Relations Bureau [name and title as received], Farah added that Iraq's willingness to oppose this outrageous challenge will decisively settle a whole historical phase and lay down, through its protracted struggle against imperialism and Zionism, new rules of struggle to be incorporated into the Arab nation's records and its glorious history.

Farah said that the return of Kuwait, the branch, to the motherland, the origin, was a preemptive act designed to avert a sure danger represented by U.S. intentions to dispatch U.S. troops to Kuwait and to occupy it. He added that what took place on August 2 was Iraq's historic response to bring about security and peace in the region. [passage omitted]

Friendship Group Chief Meets Polish Official

JN1612130490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1040 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—'Adnan Dawud Salman, chairman of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization, last night met with Piotr Sikorski [name as received], head of the Polish peace messengers' delegation participating in the world peace and friendship camp currently in place in Baghdad.

During the meeting the chairman of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization reviewed the dimensions of the conspiratorial and provocative schemes being hatched by the United States and its allies against Iraq to obstruct its scientific and technological advancement and its comprehensive cultural renaissance. He affirmed Iraq's sincere desire to establish a comprehensive and just peace through His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August, which represents the objective framework for an in-depth dialogue to resolve all regional problems on the basis of justice and equality.

As for Piotr Sikorski, he stressed the need for the withdrawal of the U.S.-Atlantic troops from Arab lands to prepare the proper climate for attaining a genuine peace and resolving all regional problems.

Peace Organization Chief, WPC Official Confer

JN1612172290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1440 GMT 15 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Dec (INA)—'Adnan Dawud Salman, chairman of the Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity Organization, met today with Ray Stewart [name as received], executive secretary of the World Peace Council [WPC].

'Adnan Dawud Salman said that the interlinked regional problems must be addressed as a whole in accordance with uniform standards and that the UN Security Council [UNSC] resolutions on regional problems should be implemented fairly rather than selectively. He said that the recent resolutions the UNSC passed against Iraq do not represent international legitimacy, because they are U.S. resolutions with UN cover.

Ray Stewart said that the dangerous situation in the region requires the concerted efforts and solidarity of all peace organizations and peace loving forces all over the world so that they can make joint efforts to secure a comprehensive settlement of regional problems, since these problems constitute an indivisible whole.

They discussed ways and means of finding a comprehensive and just peaceful settlement of regional problems and averting the specter of a destructive war in the region.

Arab Liberation Front Secretary Supports State

JN1612181590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Dec (INA)—Arab Liberation Front Secretary 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad has said that the strugglers of the front and the Palestinian Arab people stand by Iraq under President Saddam Husayn in its just and legitimate confrontation of all the imperialist-Zionist threats.

In a statement to INA, he said: The Arab nation's battle, in which noble Iraq is confronting imperialism and Zionism, is the battle of all the Arabs and Muslims, foremost of which are the Palestinian people, who have been and continue to be exposed to the ugliest forms of persecution under Zionist occupation, which is helped by the United States.

He asked: Where does international legitimacy, about which the United States and its allies are bragging, stand on the Zionist occupation forces' brutal massacres against Palestinians in the al-Haram al-Sharif courtyard and in Palestinian cities, or on Yitzhaq Shamir's recent statements that he will cling to the occupied Arab territories and that his Zionist entity rejects the idea of abandoning them so as to absorb more immigrants with the purpose of expansion and aggression against the Arab nation?

He added that the double standards practiced by U.S. President Bush in dealing with the region's issues, the U.S. policy of hegemony and terrorism, and making the Security Council issue hasty and wrong resolutions as a result of that hegemony demonstrate the evil and aggressive intentions toward the Arab nation and its historic and legitimate rights, as well as the use of the Zionist entity as an obedient tool to implement the wicked U.S. policy.

'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad went on to say that the Arab nation and its militant masses, who have announced their absolute support for Iraq under the wise leadership of President Saddam Husayn, have united themselves against American challenges and threats, are ready for an honorable battle, and are determined to offer their blood so that Iraq can remain noble and a supporter of the Arab nation and its rights.

Jasim Meets With World Peace Group

JN1612132990 Baghdad INA in English 1310 GMT 16 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 16, INA—Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim minister of information and culture has affirmed that morale of the Iraqi people are high and we are capable of defeating all forces of evil.

During a meeting with Mrs. Pavani Giovana [name as received] chairwoman of the World Peace and Freedom Association (branch of Italy) and Mr. de Santi Masio [name as received] chairman of the world education committee for peace, Mr. Jasim said that sons of Iraq would destroy all forces of evil and the American-Nato buildups occupying our land and sanctities.

Mr. Jasim added that President Saddam Husayn's August 12 initiative was the optimal solution for all problems in the region, chief among which is the Palestinian question.

The minister made it clear that Iraq wants just and honourable peace but not at the expense of its dignity, wants peace which does not offer the enemies and traitors of the nation who joined their destiny with the foreigner any opportunity to harm the Arab nation and consolidate the American occupation of Muslim sanctities in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

The minister referred to the American domination on the Security Council and its iniquitous measures in imposing the blockade on the Iraqi people which caused the death of a number of them, at a time many resolutions were issued since the Security Council had failed to implement any of them to protect the Palestinian people.

Mrs. Giovana condemned the American-Nato buildups on land of Najd and Hejaz, saying that the United States wanted to dominate the region and plunder its riches.

Ramadan Meets UK's Grant, Assails Resolutions

JN1912191090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy prime minister, received today a peace delegation of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization in Britain led by Bernie Grant, member of the British Parliament.

Taha Yasin Ramadan expressed the appreciation of both Iraq and its leader President Saddam Husayn for all the peace efforts and endeavors being made by the world parliaments, organizations, and bodies, which fall in line with Iraq's peace efforts and its serious eagerness to bring about peace in the region.

Ramadan added that achieving peace should be the collective responsibility of mankind so that stability and security in the world can be attained and so that a new

world order—without hegemony or war and based equitable and balanced relations and cooperation serving small and large peoples alike without discrimination or enslavement—can be built.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the UN Security Council [UNSC] resolutions are null and void because they are not based on UNSC rules and provisions. He added that the passage of these resolutions was made possible by the payment of bribes and money to buy votes supporting the draft resolutions written by the U.S. Administration. He went on to say that the UNSC lost respect and world standing after being stripped of the international will that is based on respect for laws, and justice and also after becoming an institution that passes illegal and unethical U.S. resolutions.

Bernie Grant said that the Palestine question is the most important question in the Middle East. He added that the UNSC should prove itself to be a powerful international institution by restoring the Palestinian people's rights, implementing its resolutions, and also by passing further resolutions and sanctions against the occupier Zionist entity, which rejects all these resolutions and still enjoys the support of the United States, its strategic ally.

Grant stressed the need to see all U.S. and other foreign troops leave the lands and waters of the Arabian Gulf and to revoke all the illegal resolutions passed against Iraq. He pointed out that the decision enforcing a blockade denying access to food, medicine, and baby's milk was made by the United States and confirms its disrespect for human rights. He cautioned that the war threatened by the United States would expose the whole world to dangers and catastrophes that would remain with us for decades to come. He said the world public rejects belligerent policies and is increasing its efforts to bring about peace and respect for the Arabs' legitimate rights to their lands and wealth.

Anti-Nuclear War Activist Praises Initiative

JN1912142090 Baghdad INA in English 1315 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 19, INA—Dr. Orwa Belbao [name as received], Secretary of the International Physicians' Society for the Prevention of Nuclear War, extolled President Saddam Husayn's initiative of August 12 saying it constitues a perfect course for achieving security and stability in the region.

In a statement to INA Dr. Belbao said, the deployment of U.S-NATO forces in the Arab Gulf region was astonishing and threatens an explosion that would destroy this vital part of the world.

She added that peace-loving peoples and governments must exert every effort possible to provide suitable circumstances for solving all problems in the region.

She pointed that negotiations and dialogue were the perfect way to establish permanent peace and denounced the use of food, milk and medicine as a political weapon against Iraq's people and children.

Minister Receives World Churches Delegation

JN1912125790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received the World Churches delegation led by Edmund Brown, head of the American bishops.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed developments in the region in light of the serious threats to the Arab nation and to the world peace and security as a result of the American-Atlantic invasion of the Gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula.

The minister of state for foreign affairs stressed Iraq's firm stand calling for holding a serious, constructive dialogue to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peaceful solution to all the region's linked problems in accordance with President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative.

Ba'th Officials Provide Civil Defense Training

JN1912184290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—Various civil defense activities continued in Baghdad and other governorates today to mobilize the masses and train them on how to tackle emergencies.

These activities included the holding of training courses and seminars on first aid and means of tackling emergencies and identifying emergency centers and the necessary requirements in order to reduce human losses.

Members of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, governorate and city officials, as well as Civil Defense officials and specialists took part in these activities to enlighten people and inform them of means of protection.

Civil Defense Director on Training, Seminars

JN1912194590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1310 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—The Directorate of Civil Defense in Baghdad has conducted 260 civil defense courses over the past two weeks for government employees and school students. Some 95,564 students, 31,559 women, and 10,000 trainees from among the retired government employees took part in these courses.

In a statement to INA, the Baghdad civil defense director said these courses were conducted at 20 Civil Defense training centers. He added that 454 of these trainees graduated and qualified to deliver lectures on civil defense duties at the 370 centers opened by the directorate in various areas of Baghdad.

The civil defense director went on to say that the directorate held nine seminars over the past two weeks to inform citizens. He said that 724 citizens took part in these seminars, which were devoted to explaining civil defense concepts and duties as well as first aid and its role in facing and tackling emergencies. In addition, civil defense exercises were carried out to test the efficiency of civil defense teams and self-protection, the director concluded.

Communist Party Chief on Gulf Crisis, Saddam

JN1912092590 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 16 Dec 90 p 18

[Text] Damascus, AL-KHALIJ—'Aziz Muhammad, secretary general of the Iraqi Communist Party, has told AL-KHALIJ that his party's position on the occupation of Kuwait has been clear from the start. He said that his party condemned this act and viewed it as an aggression on a fraternal country. He went on to say that the pretexts and justifications advanced by the Iraqi regime to justify its invasion of Kuwait are null and void and not supported by any historical evidence. He said that the unity forced by the use of fighter planes and tanks is nothing but an act against unity. He said that the Iraqi regime is the last party to have the right to talk about redistributing wealth, because it has wasted Iraq's wealth in crazy adventures that have only brought devastation to the Iraqi people.

On the economic blockade being enforced against Iraq and its effect on the internal situation in Iraq, the secretary general of the Iraqi Communist Party said that there are difficulties regarding access to foodstuffs. He added that these difficulties are exacerbating daily. He said: We hope the crisis will be resolved peacefully, as the Iraqis have had more than their fair share of wars. He said that a peaceful solution should be based on an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

'Aziz Muhammad said that the absence of democracy is the reason behind the emergence of this crisis, and called for spreading democracy in the Arab homeland to spare the region such catastrophes in the future.

The Iraqi Communist Party secretary general explained his party's position on the invasion of Kuwait and said that this position is clear and specific. This position is reflected in the party's press, he added. He continued: We took a similar position toward 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim in 1961 when he decided to annex Kuwait. We believe that the pretexts and justifications advanced by the Iraqi regime are null and void, and are also unfounded, and not based on any historical grounds. And here, I would like to say that the talk of returning the "branch" to the "origin" or the "whole" would cause numerous disputes in the Arab homeland and elsewhere. Besides, over the past decades, Kuwait has been an independent and sovereign country and a member of the United Nations, the Arab League, the Nonaligned Movement, and the Islamic Conference Organization. Iraq is well aware of all of this. Hence, we believe that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait is null and void and an aggression against a fraternal country only made possible by Iraq's military capabilities and its ability to invade Kuwait. Hence, we are clearly against the occupation of Kuwait. With regard to the talk of unity, unity should be based on two or more people's desire for unity and also on the decisions of the constitutional institutions of these peoples. As for the unity forced by the use of fighter planes, missiles, and armor, it is nothing but an act meant to kill unity. Consequently, we reject the premise that Kuwait was occupied to achieve unity. Therefore, we demand an Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait and that the Kuwaiti people be granted the right to self-determination and to choose their own way of life. This has been the position of the Iraqi Communist Party since the start of the invasion.

[AL-KHALIJ] The Iraqi regime has upheld the slogan of social justice and the principle of redistributing wealth. It has shed crocodile tears in this regard and told the poor that this was one of the reasons for invading Kuwait. To what extent is Saddam Husayn's regime applying this social justice slogan?

[Muhammad] It has been said that wealth is piled up in certain sparcely populated parts of the Arab world. There is some truth in such statements, which are meant to serve perfidious objectives; and this is well known to the Iraqi regime. However, Iraq is viewed as a rich country that has sizable capabilities and resources created by the presence of oil. But the questions which we pose and which cast doubts on the Iraqi regime's premises are the following: Where has Iraq's wealth gone? Why are the Iraqi people suffering so cruelly from cracks in the Iraqi economy, thanks to the regime's adventures? The nature of Saddam Husayn's personality and the character of the Iraqi regime show that they are the least eager to redistribute wealth. During the eight-year Iraq-Iran war, initial estimates put Iraq's expenditure on this war at hundreds of billions of dollars.

Iraq has emerged from this war with an estimated debt of $80 billion, although it entered it with a huge dollar reserve. This is in addition to its negative economic, psychological, and social effect on Iraq, let alone the hundreds of thousands of innocent people who fell victims of a mad war. So, what is being proposed by the Iraqi regime in this respect is only a weak pretext. We know that aid poured into Iraq when the Iraqi regime was in need of it. It is also known that Iraq would not have been able to remain steadfast throughout its war with Iran were it not for the aid extended to it. If the issue had been one of aid only, there would have been the possibility of a solution through bilateral negotiations or through the Arab League rather than through the invasion of Kuwait. We also know that Iraq would have obtained assistance. So, we reject such allegations. The Iraqi regime has created its economic crisis, mainly through the Iraq-Iran war and its brutal war against the Iraqi people, particularly the Kurdish people in northern Iraq. The invasion of Kuwait, according to the Iraqi regime's viewpoint, was aimed at solving the economic

crisis and distracting the Iraqi people's attention away from their suffering at the hands of the present regime. However, we believe that the Iraqi regime's invasion of Kuwait will further complicate the crisis and that this regime will not emerge safe from it.

[AL-KHALIJ] What are conditions like inside Iraq after its occupation of Kuwait and the economic blockade imposed on it?

[Muhammad] I cannot claim to know everything about what is happening now inside Iraq. However, everyone can imagine or guess the conditions in light of the fact that Iraq waged an eight-year war with Iran and is now being involved in a more insane adventure with Kuwait. Many countries are screaming from the impact of the economic blockade or the invasion of Kuwait. I am not talking about Iraq's neighboring countries or those which are close to it, because such an impact on these is natural, but I am talking about the African and Asian countries. If this is true, how is the situation in Iraq, on which the blockade is imposed? Undoubtedly, there are difficult problems. I believe the Security Council knew the effects an economic blockade would have before it adopted the resolution. Iraq had suffered from other problems before it invaded Kuwait. Averting the military clash remains an option. However, the Iraqi regime should be forced out of Kuwait. On the economic level, we can say that the impact on Iraq is severe but conditions have not reached the verge of a starvation. We can say that conditions are very difficult even on the food level, and we say this without going into further detail. There are difficulties in obtaining food in Iraq and it is becoming more difficult day after day. Although popular circles' sentiments were aroused at the beginning of the crisis when the issue was depicted as a battle against imperialism, and when these circles were affected by the Iraqi regime's demagogic claim that Kuwait was part of Iraq and that wealth would be distributed to the Iraqi people, and when claims of burning up half of Israel moved certain circles as if that had been true, the continuation of the current situation and the possible increase in the suffering and difficulties will result in a completely different situation, especially if a military clash occurs, God forbid. We are with a peaceful solution, and this solution will be impossible without the Iraqi Army's withdrawal from Kuwait. So, we believe that the peaceful solution relies on the Iraqi Army's withdrawal from Kuwait, after which the foreign forces will also leave the region.

I, therefore, reiterate our desire to avoid military conflagration. Although we are currently going through a tragic situation, we have not yet reached the climax of this tragedy; namely, military clash, which, if it occurs, will change the situation of not only Iraq but also the entire region.

[AL-KHALIJ] How do you envisage the future of the crisis resulting from Iraq's occupation of Kuwait?

[Muhammad] I do not understand the question fully but it is imperative for Iraq to leave Kuwait and for the Kuwaiti people to return to their country and live in it as they wish. One of the results of this crime is that it placed the regime and Iraq in a crisis. Because I believe in democracy, I feel that the entire Arab world—and I am here talking about Iraq and the region—is thirsty for democracy, public liberties, and constitutional institutions more than anything else. Although the tragedy is intense—and it does not concern the Iraqi and Kuwaiti people alone, but the entire Arab people, too—the future of the region must ultimatily be democratic, regimes with popular bases—to varying degrees—must take over, and relations must be built on a growing and entrenching democratic base. Out of this, I say that we are hoping, indeed acting—and enlightened forces in the Arab world should also act—to secure a democratic ground for our entire region. There are many motives for this, but at least the legitimate question now is: Had there been even little true democracy in Iraq, would Saddam have done what he has done over the past 10 years, subjecting Iraq, and now Kuwait, to serious disasters and dangers? Certainly, he would not have done. The dictator is now making decisions in isolation of the people and their institutions. Therefore, we must struggle for democracy to allow peoples to take the initiative. This is the way to stop such practices. I have been asked more than once whether the Iraqi regime will have a future. And when we say that it has no future, we do not mean, of course, that it will collapse tomorrow. But with all confidence I say that this regime has no future, just like all the regimes that are not leaning on popular foundations and which have bad relations with their peoples. These regimes should either change their situations early or miss the train of history. History always moves forward. Therefore, regardless of the tragic outcome of this crisis, it is producing the positive phenomena I have suggested.

[AL-KHALIJ] As a politician and observer of events, how do you view the developments of the Gulf crisis in light of world unanimity on unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait?

[Muhammad] For us to be honest, we must first say that we believe Saddam must be thinking of withdrawal—this is a personal opinion. It cannot be said that it is impossible for Saddam to leave Kuwait. If Saddam feels that his regime is at stake and that he can retain something, he will ultimately withdraw.

Saddam may leave Kuwait when withdrawal is organized for him; I mean, when the process of withdrawal has been organized. I am not suggesting a reward for him; I am against rewarding the aggressor. If we are talking about a peaceful solution and are not under illusion, the solution depends on the possibility of Saddam leaving Kuwait. We should not be content with therefore, do not see any future for the continued presence of the Iraqi army in Kuwait. We as Iraqis say it clearly: We do not want war; we have had enough of them, and we suffered many tragedies. If war erupts, our people will suffer even greater tragedies this time. If the possibility of military confrontation is now at the forefront, the possibility of a solution can be pushed forward. As regards Western and international circles, they will accept nothing short of Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

Jerusalem Concerned Over Possible Iraq Deal

TA1912123790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Dec 90 pp A1, 4

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpts] There is a great deal of concern in senior political echelons in Jerusalem in the wake of information on efforts by pro-Iraqi elements to obtain an agreement on Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait in return for a promise that the United States will not veto a UN Security Council resolution mentioning the international conference.

According to this information, various elements, including King Husayn, are trying to convince Saddam Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait without preconditions prior to 15 January, and to account for the withdrawal by expressing his consideration for "international wishes" and his desire to give priority to solving the Palestinian problem. The senior political echelons in Jerusalem believe that the U.S. refusal to reject completely any mention of the international conference, be it in the resolution itself or in an announcement by the Council president, is aimed at making this emerging deal with Iraq possible.

Foreign Minister David Levi, talking with U.S. Senator George Mitchell, who is currently visiting Israel, alluded to the possibility of such a deal. Levi said he believes that Saddam Husayn will withdraw from Kuwait very close to the 15 January deadline, in face of U.S. determination. [passage omitted]

In his talk with Mitchell, Levi added that Israel does not want war in the Gulf, but that if a war breaks out, it must be rapidly decided. Otherwise, a prolonged war will play into Saddam Husayn's hands, because the efforts expected then from elements in certain Arab countries to end the war will simply perpetuate the status quo. Levi expressed his confidence that the United States possesses all the means necessary to decide the battle, both in the field and in public opinion.

Levi expressed his apprehension about the possibility that Saddam Husayn will withdraw from Kuwait but stay in power and keep his Army intact. According to Levi, in such a case the United States will have no guarantee that its allies in the region will not face a concrete danger of aggression on the day after the withdrawal. Levi added that the moderate Arab countries are interested in disarming Saddam Husayn so that they are not subject to constant threats.

Shamir Says Status Quo in Iraq 'Dangerous'

TA1912181590 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Dani Levi in southern Israel on 19 December—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpts] [Levi] Mr. Prime Minister, is there any reason to fear that the United States may agree to an international conference in return for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait?

[Shamir] I hope not. According to what I have been told, they will not give the Iraqis anything at Israel's expense.

[Levi] Could the United States possibly support the mentioning of an international conference in the Security Council's resolution?

[Shamir] Well, there are various nuances. However, the principle is to give Iraq nothing at Israel's expense. I heard this from the President himself, and also at lower levels.

[Levi] Mr. Prime Minister, can Israel live with a political solution that will leave Iraq's military machine intact?

[Shamir] One must always continue living. Nevertheless, there are certainly goals that we must always strive to achieve, and a continued status quo in Iraq—with its constant craving for military might that is directed against us—is a dangerous situation.

[Levi] Have we received assurances from the United States that such a situation will indeed not come to pass?

[Shamir] There are no assurances, but there is an understanding. [passage omitted]

[Levi] Is it not possible, or do you perhaps not feel that we need to change attitudes and regulations governing Israel's internal security in order to stop the recent wave of terrorist attacks?

[Shamir] One must always seek more effective and efficient measures. To progress is a rule that obliges all of us, especially the IDF, and I think that the IDF is faithful to that rule.

Says Low Profile To Continue

TA2012060390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that Israel will continue to maintain a low profile on the Gulf crisis. Israel does not want to get actively involved because this would be incompatible with its own interests and those of the United States, Mr. Shamir said, emphasizing that Israel made this choice of its own free will. He was speaking in Jerusalem last night at a meeting of United Jewish Appeal activists from overseas.

The prime minister stated that the policy of deportations is vital to upholding Israel's security.

[Begin Shamir recording] If we do that, it is not to anger any of our friends in the United States, but because this is imperative to our security. We have explained as much to our friends in the United States and asked them to show understanding of our need to take measures we are not thrilled to take. [end recording]

Speaking to our correspondent Ze'ev Tuchfeld, Mr. Shamir noted that Israel will continue to take all possible measures to curb terror and that, if necessary, other measures will be taken.

Levi: U.S. 'Holds the Key' To Ending Crisis

TA2012123590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has said that Israel will not give in to pressure or to attempts to weaken it, because this will increase the appetite of extreme fanatic Arabs for annihilating the State of Israel.

In a meeting with U.S. Congressman Wayne Owens, Levi noted that the United States holds the key to terminating the state of war in the Middle East. The United States must make it clear that it will not allow any more wars in the region and that if the state of war is not terminated, it will continue to uphold Israel's qualitative edge.

U.S. Opposition to Deportations 'Puzzling'

TA1712114190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Dec 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Playing Saddam's Game"]

[Text] American opposition to Israel's decision to deport four leading Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] organizers in the wake of last Friday's murders in Yafo is puzzling. The U.S. Administration surely knows that the Fourth Geneva Convention is irrelevant in this matter. That convention proscribes "forcible transfers" in order to prevent the forced exile of inhabitants of occupied areas, and their replacement with the occupying power's population. It is directed precisely at acts such as those of Saddam Husayn in Kuwait, not at punitive deportations of individual terrorist leaders.

Nor does the American demand that candidates for expulsion stand trial make any sense. These are not ordinary criminals in a country at peace, in which full "due process" accorded civilians can apply. Israel's successes against terrorism have not been achieved by exposing its sources of information in open court. The terrorists enjoy the enjoy the right of habeas corpus, a legal recourse not normally available in countries which are at war. Yesterday they appealed to the military courts. If they are turned down, they are entitled to a hearing in the civil High Court of Justice.

The real American concern is probably not with supposed violations of international law, but with its coalition allies' incessant hectoring about Israel's "treatment of the Palestinians." This is also why the Bush Administration continues to agonize over yet another proposed draft resolution at the Security Council condemning Israel for the Temple Mount riot. It is still trying to find a formula which will satisfy its Arab and European partners without committing the U.S. to an international conference—a guaranteed non-starter.

But the administration must understand that the common inspiration of the Friday murders in Yafo and provocations such as the Temple Mount incident is the desire to serve Saddam Husayn. This does not mean that the command for every action originates in Baghdad. It does mean that it is the policy of the pro-Saddam forces among the Palestinian Arabs to deflect attention from the Gulf and "attempt to put the invasion of Kuwait in perspective," as King Husayn likes to put it, by heating up the "other occupied territories" and focusing world attention on Israel.

Unfortunately, by yielding to pressure from its coalition partners, whose compulsion to batter Israel seems to take precedence over the need to defeat Iraq, the U.S. administration is playing Saddam's game. Senior American officials have said that, if Israel would only agree to accept UN observers and refrain from taking drastic action against intifada terrorists, events in Israel would come off the world's agenda and attention again center on the Gulf. But the very opposite is true: When murderous incidents attract extravagant attention, the Hamas, the Islamic Jihad and the PLO pat themselves on the back; when the U.S. deals Israel a body blow by joining in condemning it at the UN, they crow in triumph and see an irresistible invitation to repeat the formula. As long as the efforts of these organizations produce the desired results, the hope of defeating terrorism is slim.

If the Bush administration is interested in subduing fundamentalist Islamic terrorism—which is as dedicated to fighting the West, and particularly America, as it is to annihilating Israel—it must realize that Israel's war against the Hamas and the Islamic Jihad is not over territorial compromise. These fundamentalist organizations do not even pretend to seek accommodation. They openly seek Israel's destruction. They are Saddam Husayn's devoted allies and his best friends.

'Unprecedented Low' in Support for Labor Bloc

TA1812120590 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Dec 90 pp 1, 2

[Report by Rafi and Hanokh Smith]

[Text] About 31.5 percent of the Jewish voters voted for the Labor Party and 8.5 percent for its satellite parties—the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement], Shinuy, and MAPAM [United Workers Party]—in the Knesset elections two years ago. With a total of 40 percent, this figure was the lowest ever scored by the left-wing bloc in any Knesset election to date.

A public opinion poll conducted by the Smith Institute in the second half of November 1990 shows a 10-percent drop in support for the Labor Party among the Jewish population, registering an unprecedented low of 21 percent.

Where have the Labor Party supporters gone? An analysis of the findings of the poll, conducted on 1,200 women and men (including inhabitants of kibbutzim, moshavim, Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza), shows interesting results:

—Shift to the right-wing bloc: Generally speaking, the Labor Party lost very few voters to the right wing. It lost two percent to Tzomet and Moledet, but gained one percent from the Likud, a net loss of only one percent. Unlike the past, this poll showed a two-way swing from one bloc to another, which translates into less than one percent. Hence, the shift from one bloc to another is not the answer to the question.

It should be pointed out that Labor's loss of voters to the Likud occurred entirely among Sephardic Israelis, a continuous trend since the political turnabout of 1977.

—Shift to the satellite parties: Some 3.5 percent moved from the Labor Party to the CRM (two-thirds) and to Shinuy (one-third). MAPAM did not benefit from this shift. About three percent of those who shifted allegiance are third generation Ashkenazi Israelis, and only 0.5 percent are Sephardic Israelis.

—Shift to the "undecided:" In a poll we conducted at the end of June 1990 (on the eve of the Gulf crisis), only 1.5 percent of the respondents said they had no political preferences. In the current poll, their number rose to eight percent, three percent of which voted Labor in the last election. The current number of undecided represents close to eight percent of the total number of Labor Party voters in the election two years ago. We did not discern any significant difference in terms of ethnic origin. The number of undecided is as big as the group shifting to the satellite parties.

—Will not vote or refuse to answer: Such a response is usually indicative of dissatisfaction with the party the respondents favored in the past. Their number in the current poll was particularly high and totaled 10 percent of the Labor Party voters. The number of those who favored the Labor Party in the current poll but refused to disclose who they had voted for in the last election should be subtracted from this number. After this subtraction, the Labor Party's net loss is some two percent.

—New voters: This may be the most important group, although it is not very big. One should differentiate between those who were not yet eligible voters in the last election (six percent) and those who did not vote for various reasons (eight percent).

Of those who were not yet eligible to vote in 1988, only nine percent would today vote for the Labor Party and another 12 percent for its satellite parties, a total of 21 percent. On the other hand, 36 percent would vote for the Likud and another 33 percent for its satellite parties, a total of 69 percent. Even if we add those who did not vote in 1988 to this figure, the picture would not change.

Another aspect of the findings shows that among Sephardic Israeli respondents, 47 percent would vote for the Likud, while 31 percent would vote for the right-wing parties—a total of 78 percent, compared with only 14 percent who would vote for the Labor Party and the left-wing bloc.

Voting trends among third generation Ashkenazi Israelis who have historically identified with the Labor Party were a bit surprising: 23 percent supported the Likud, while 29 percent favored other right-wing parties—a total of 52 percent. In contrast, 10 percent would vote for the Labor Party and 19 percent for the CRM, Shinuy, and MAPAM—a total of 29 percent.

These findings indicate that the real crisis in the Labor Party is among new, young voters and those who did not vote in the previous election. (As far as new immigrants are concerned, at this point we do not have sufficient data to determine their voting tendencies).

To sum up, the findings of the poll show that at this point, the drop in support for the Labor Party and its satellite parties—from 40 percent in the 1988 election to 33 percent in the latest poll—stems from the fact that some voters have shifted to the group of undecided, rather than from a shift to the right wing. On the other hand, the right-wing bloc enjoys strong support among young voters who never voted before.

A change has also occurred in the right-wing bloc. Compared with the results in the last election, support for the Likud has dropped five percent. In fact, the Likud has lost more support to its own satellite parties more than has the Labor Party. We discerned an increase of eight percent in the strength of Tehiya, Tzomet, and Moledet, which almost doubled their strength compared with the last election, and a three-percent drop in support for the ultraorthodox religious parties.

Support for the Labor Party has dropped seven percent since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis in August 1990. The escalation of the intifadah and the PLO's support for Saddam Husayn have increased the uncertainty felt by the public and may have contributed to the shift to the right.

Sharon: Immigrants Not Being Sent to Territories

TA1412154690 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Dec 90 p 2

[Report by Dani Kipper]

[Text] "The government has clearly announced that we are not sending immigrants to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip." This is how Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon reacted yesterday to Labor Party leader Shim'on Peres' comments in which he said that hundreds of caravans for immigrants were being directed to the territories.

At the meeting of the Labor Party Bureau yesterday, Peres called for "shifting the focus of construction from Judaea and Samaria to the Negev and Galilee."

Peres stated that he wanted to check the truth of the report that hundreds of caravans are being placed in Judaea and Samaria. Then, "after the caravans are positioned there, it will be said that there is no choice, that the immigrants are homeless and they will therefore be made to live there," Peres said.

Sharon declared: "We are not sending immigrants to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, not because we have changed our position on the strategic importance of these regions, but so as not to harm aliyah.

"It is regrettable that the Labor Party head, because of a personal and internal political struggle, is trying to place obstacles instead of harnessing himself to the enormous national effort of absorbing this aliyah."

Goren Descibes Territories' Economy as 'Bleak'

TA1712122890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] The confinement of 100,000 laborers to the territories without alternative employment would ultimately affect Israel's interests, Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, told the Knesset Labor and Welfare Committee today. Goren told the committee that 12,000 Palestinians are currently barred from working in Israel for security or criminal reasons. Our correspondent Uri Revah reports:

[Begin recording] [Revah] Today the coordinator of government activities in the territories painted a bleak picture of the economic situation in the territories to the Knesset Labor and Welfare Committee. The Persian Gulf countries stopped their massive aid to the Arabs of the territories upon the outbreak of the Gulf crisis, cutting their annual aid of $140 million by more than half, Goren said.

There is also a problem with exports, Goren said, which have been cut by 50 percent. The export of citrus fruit from Gaza has been reduced by 80 percent.

Goren noted that the work force in the territories totals 300,000 people, 100,000 of them employed in Israel. In other words, one out of three Palestinian workers makes his living in Israel. In addition, 12,000 Palestinians have been barred from crossing the Green Line and will have to find jobs in the territories.

[Goren] We will prevent people who pose a security or criminal risk from entering Israel. The ban is not irrevocable and may be appealed to committees dealing with the matter. Several workers who felt discriminated against appealed to these committees. Their cases were examined, and the ban was lifted; in other words, they were once again issued permits to leave the territories to work in Israel.

[Revah] The confinement of 100,000 workers to the territories without alternative employment will affect Israel's interests, Goren said, noting that the blockades serve a purpose.

[Goren] We do not impose blockades to punish the population. The blockades and curfews are preemptive measures designed to prevent violence. This is their significance and objective.

[Revah] But they affect Israeli employers.

[Goren] Unfortunately, innocent people are affected; however, we have no choice but to resort to this measure occasionally. Of course, we decide on such measures only when we are absolutely certain that they will contribute to greater security.

[Revah] An interministerial committee headed by Shmu'el Goren will submit a special report within the next few days proposing a new policy with regard to everything pertaining to the economic situation in the territories. [end recording]

Effects of 'Wave of Immigration' on Economy

TA2012111090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Dec 90 p 1

[Report by Alisa Odenheimer]

[Text] The massive wave of immigration this year had a dramatic effect on the year's national accounts, pushing the Gross National Product up by 5 percent, after two years of a 1-2 percent growth rate, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The immigration also brought on a 16 percent increase in investment, a third of which can be accounted for by investment in housing construction. In 1989, investment shrunk 6 percent.

Private consumption expenditure also showed an upturn of 5 percent, after shrinking 3 percent last year. Per capita, private consumption increased 2 percent in 1990, following a 3 percent decrease in 1989. Government consumption expenditure increased 3.7 percent in 1990.

On the down side, the trade deficit increased, as exports increased by only 1 percent, in dollar terms. Officials blamed the freeze on the Gulf crisis, which has brought on a tremendous decrease in tourism. Industrial exports showed an increase of 5 percent.

At the same time, imports rose 9 percent, due to both an increase in the quantity of imports, as well as their price. Here, too, the Gulf crisis played a role, bringing the price of oil up 55 percent for the August through November period.

The trade deficit, however, was countered by an increase in capital transfers from abroad, due to the large donations from diaspora Jewry to fund immigration.

The product of the business sector increased by 5-6 percent, after modest increases of 1-2 percent in the previous year. Bureau officials pointed to a 4 percent increase in productivity in the business sector, which had stagnated during the two previous years.

The greatest increase in business product was in the industries that manufacture building inputs and in the construction industry itself.

In other developments yesterday, a record number of jobseekers were recorded in November, as Soviet immigrants began to hit the labor market, Employment Service officials reported.

Last month, 110,000 jobseekers were recorded, a 7.4 percent increase over the previous month. Officials added that the increase in job-seekers was accompanied by an increase in positions available, bringing the ratio of jobseekers to positions available down from 3.5 in October, to 2.7 in November.

Arab Attacks in Jerusalem; Fugitives Arrested

TA1812205590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] An Arab youth from Ramallah this evening attempted to stab three young Jewish brothers in Jerusalem as they were returning from evening prayers. The attacked Jews managed to escape and gave their attacker's description to the police. The assailant was apprehended a short time later on his way to the Old City. A long kitchen knife was found in his possession. The Jewish youths were not hurt. This was reported by our correspondent Gil Litman.

An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol this afternoon captured three wanted Arabs as they were trying to flee in their car from the village of Qarawat Bani-Zayd near Ramallah. One of the men had been wanted by the security forces for a long time. One of the wanted men, a resident of Salfit near Nabulus, belongs to the Black Panther murder squad. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an IDF soldier was lightly injured by a stone in Khan Yunus.

Intifadah Incidents, News Conference Reported

TA1912140090

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 19 December, in a news agencies report on page 10, reports that "in the territories yesterday, soldiers shot and wounded 19 Palestinians in Samaria and the Gaza area during a strike to protest Israeli plans to expel four Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders, residents said.

"Witnesses said one was a 60-year-old employee of the Nabulus municipality whose car was stopped at a roadblock. Soldiers fired on the car after signalling it to proceed, they said. An Army spokesman said the man had refused to stop."

Also, "Gaza hospitals said a total of 17 Palestinians were shot and wounded in clashes throughout the Strip.

"Military sources said troops shot and wounded a masked Palestinian carrying a pistol in al-Nusayrat and were searching for his two companions, who escaped.

"Seven residents were wounded during disturbances there, one of them a woman who was seriously hurt."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 19 December, in a report by Yizhar Be'er, Eytan Rabin, and Nadav Shragay on page A2, reports that "the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] last night sealed the houses of Ibrahim 'Amayda and Khalid Faqusa, Dura residents, and another house belonging to a Bayt 'Ur al-Fawqa resident. The three are suspected of having belonged to a local group recently uncovered in Dura in the Hebron Hills. The members of the group are suspected of shooting to death a Dura resident on 9 October on grounds of collaboration with the authorities."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 19 December, in a pool report on page A7, reports that "the security forces yesterday imposed a curfew on the villages of Biddiya and Mashah which are close to the trans-Samaria road after an Israeli civilian was injured by a stone when he traveling near these villages on Monday"

Writing on the same page of MA'ARIV Hanan Schlein and 'Ezra Yanuv report that in a news conference held in Jerusalem yesterday "the committee of Arab attorneys in East Jerusalem and the territories denounced the issuing of deportation orders to the four Hamas activists. The committee representatives claimed that this action is neither legitimate by international law, nor moral."

Attorney 'Ali Ghazlan, the committee chairman, stated that "the Israeli Government is exercising the transfer policy, in fact." Another speaker at the conference, "Attorney Nadim 'Awda from Gaza who represents the deportees argued that the military prosecution piled numerous obstacles on the attorneys' way, such as concealing material and allocating too short a time for material perusal.

"Deportation for the Palestinians is tantamount to the death penalty, Attorney Nadim said. The news conference was attended also by Knesset Members 'Abd-al-Wahab Darawshah and Hashim Mahamid."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 19 December reports that "the security forces last night sealed up the home of a person suspected of being the regional commander of a youth committee of the Fatah Shabibah organization. He tried to buy firearms to murder people suspected of aiding the authorities and gathered information on them. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that he was detained four months ago."

'Terrorist' Squad Uncovered; Houses Sealed

TA2012094790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Another terrorist squad has been uncovered in eastern Barta'ah. Valleys District policemen arrested five villagers who are suspected of having committed a series of terrorist attacks and arson in the Wadi 'Ara area. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that they are cooperating with their investigators and have already confessed to many cases of arson. Two villagers tried to prevent the arrest of the five, and one of them attacked a policeman. The two were taken into custody. Three other terrorists, members of Fatah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, were arrested earlier in the week on suspicion of having planted roadside bombs in the Wadi 'Ara area.

Last night, Israeli Army soldiers demolished one house and sealed two others in the Ramallah area. The houses belonged to local residents who were involved in terrorist activities. The house of a member of a Fatah strike committee was demolished in al-Birah. The house of another member of the same committee was sealed in the village of Dayr 'Ibzi. Among other things, the two are suspected of having murdered two Arabs whom they suspected of collaborating with the authorities, setting shops on fire, and throwing firebombs at Israeli Army patrols.

The house of a man suspected of stabbing and wounding Moshe Qoren, a Jewish food supplier, in Jerusalem's Neve Ya'aqov neighborhood about two months ago was sealed in the village of Hizma.

Milo: 'Terrorist' Murderers 'Won't Get Out Alive'

TA2012111490 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Dec 90 p 2

[Report by Knesset correspondent Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] Arab terrorists who commit barbaric murders would no longer sit in jail awaiting eventual release, Police Minister Roni Milo warned yesterday.

Replying to 14 urgent motions for the Knesset agenda on last week's triple killing in Yafo, Milo said murderers would either be killed before capture, or they would be tried, sentenced to death and executed.

"They have to know they won't get out alive," he said. [passage omitted]

Agriculture Ministry Orders Water Supplies Cut

TA2012111290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 20 Dec 90 pp 1, 10

[Report by David Rudge]

[Excerpt] Water supplies to farmers are to be slashed by 20 percent from next month as the first step in a proposed series of rationing measures. The move was announced last night by Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan following a meeting with farmers' representatives.

The minister is expected to declare a state of drought within the next two weeks if there is no substantial rainfall beforehand.

The cutbacks announced last night will affect field crops, orchards and fish ponds.

Meanwhile negotiations are continuing with several countries, including Yugoslavia and Bulgaria over the possibility of importing fresh water to Israel. The negotiations are still in the early stages, since none of the countries, including Israel, has ever been involved in such projects.

The details that have yet to be thrashed out include the quality of the water, methods of transportation and unloading, and the various technical problems that would be involved. The overriding factor, however, revolves around the question of cost to the consumer. Experts told THE JERUSALEM POST that the cost would "have to be right," otherwise Israeli farm produce would be priced out of international markets.

Eytan made it clear last night that further drastic steps will be required to conserve water as a result of the ongoing winter drought which has exacerbated the already dangerously depleted state of the country's reservoirs. He stressed that there was no alternative but to cut supplies of fresh water to agriculture by 350-500 million cubic meters—out of a total of 961 million cubic meters—next year. [passage omitted]

King Husayn, U.S. Congressman Discuss Gulf

JN2012092090 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening Mr. Wayne Owens, member of the U.S. House of Representatives, who is on a tour of the region.

His Majesty King Husayn and Mr. Owens exchanged views on the Gulf crisis within the framework of Jordan's concern for achieving a political settlement.

The meeting was attended by his excellency the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

U.S. Cautioned Against Gulf War Moves

JN1912114790 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Dec 90 p 1, 17

[Editorial: "Washington Between the Options of Reason and Madness"]

[Text] One cannot accuse a former U.S. national security advisor of being an Iraqi agent, an anti-Zionist, or a conspirator against his own country. It is also difficult to accuse him of being one of the poor Arabs with designs on his brothers' oil, resources, and assets. This is why Mr. Brzezinski spoke the truth when he confirmed that three and a half countries are for preparing for war and that they alone have a real interest in any U.S. aggression on Iraq.

Mr. Brzezinski announced that Kuwait, Britain, and the Zionist entity are the ones with the greatest desire for war and aggression and that the half country, which stands alongside these parties, consists of the war advocates in the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—this Arab country has a large sector that does not agree with the war advocates and still rejects a military solution to the Gulf crisis, which will destroy everything and whose calamities will not spare any side.

Regarding Kuwait, the reason is well known to everyone. For sure Mr. Brzezinski did not consider the opinion of a large sector of Kuwaitis, who know very well that any war on their land means total destruction. This sector has publicized its opinion and warned of the certain catastrophes resulting from such a war.

Britain, as the former U.S. national security advisor believes, is the party most enthusiastic about aggression after the Zionist entity. This stems from a purely selfish reason: the huge financial commitments. There is talk that the Kuwaiti investments and assets in Britain are greater than the assets of the British Central Bank.

We move on to the Israeli entity, which believes that the Iraqi power is a real danger to its ambitions and existence. This is why the Zionist lobby inside the United States is acting on every level to block any window through which a glimpse of peace can be seen and through which any effort toward a peaceful settlement might be made. U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney affirmed a few days ago the danger posed to the Zionist enemy by the Iraqi power. He stated clearly that the U.S. goal behind destroying the Iraqi power and what it stands for is to protect the Israeli entity, the strategic ally of the United States. Herein lies the true U.S. interest in resorting to the use of force against Iraq. However, maintaining this interest will cost the American people a great deal in terms of the blood of their sons, their finances, and their current and future interests. This is what Mr. Brzezinski has warned of and which urged him to confirm that the United States has no interest in any war that might flare up in the Gulf and in which the United States is the major party.

The warmongers in Washington claim that President Bush must wage war in defense of American oil interests and in defense of the U.S. citizens' right to jobs in their countries, as Mr. James Baker declared. However, the door remains open before a political settlement and before a fair agreement between the Arab oil producers and consumers. Iraq has announced that it will not drink its oil. However, in return it does not want this asset to become a curse on it and its nation, as well as on the nation's right to develop, rise, and lead a dignified life .

Will reason conquer madness? Will Washington respond to its interests or the interests of the Zionist enemy? Will the United States stop dealing with our nation with contempt and with our resources by considering us mere guards? Everything depends on the answers to these questions. Accordingly, there will either be madness and destruction, or reason and our nation's getting its share of international detente and the end of the cold war, foremost of which are justice, security, and stability.

Iraqi Red Crescent Official Speaks in Amman

JN1912065690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Dec 90 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The current embargo imposed on Iraq has caused the death of hundreds of children mainly due to lack of medicine needed for their treatment, according to Dr. 'Amid Khalid 'Abd-al-Hamid, head of the Iraqi National Red Crescent Society's International Affairs.

Addressing a press conference with Dr. Ahmad Abu-Qurah, president of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), the Iraqi official said that Iraq did not possess a strategic supply of medicines; it used to import its drugs on annual basis and to receive shipments monthly.

Since Aug. 2, he said, Iraq has received only $5 million worth of medicines when, as a rule, the country used to purchase $300 million worth of drugs annually.

He said that embargo on medicine contradicted the 1949 convention and its protocols which excludes medicines destined to civilians from any sanctions, on any country during peace or war.

According to Dr. 'Abd-al-Hamid, the current embargo imposed on Iraq led to a halt in programmes that used to provide health protection in Iraq due to shortage of vaccines needed for immunisation programmes.

This, he said, has led to the spread of children's diseases while lack of sufficient milk for children has led to malnutrition leading to death in most cases.

Iraq concluded deals for the purchase of 164 shipments of milk and medicine. The Iraqi government has paid in full for the shipments before Aug. 2, but these shipments are still frozen as countries from which they are coming refuse to send them to Iraq although U.N. Security Council Resolution 666 excludes medicine from sanctions, according to Dr. 'Abd-al-Hamid.

He demanded that the world community reexamine the current embargo procedures and appealed to the countries delaying the dispatch of milk and food to speed up delivery to prevent more people from dying.

The head of the International Affairs Department at the Red Cross Society in the Netherlands, who was present at the press conference, said that his society had donated 16.5 tonnes of medicines to the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and the shipment would be channelled to Iraq through JNRCS. The Dutch official said he would hold talks with Dr. 'Abd-al-Hamid on coordinating humanitarian efforts for the Iraqi people.

JNRCS President Ahmad Abu-Qurah criticised the societies which he accused of being "biased" regarding humanitarian services and assistance for the Iraqi people.

Abu-Qurah said that Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are humanitarian groups which should be allowed to act freely and offer their services to mankind in a neutral manner.

Abu-Qurah announced that the Standing Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies had decided to send medicines worth 150,000 Swiss francs to Iraq.

In an earlier development Abu-Qurah appealed to the United Nations Security Council and international humanitarian bodies to provide protection to the Palestinian people under Israeli rule.

Abu-Qurah, who is also president of the International Standing Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, also said an Israeli decision to expel four Palestinian political activists was illegal.

He issued the appeal for protection to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movements, all international bodies and the U.N. Security Council.

"Protection of these civilians is needed after all intenational humanitarian bodies and the Security Council have failed to force Israel to accept the Fourth Geneva Convention," Abu-Qurah said.

He said the move to expel the four Palestinians from the occupied Gaza Strip violated the convention, which deals with treatment of civilians during wartime or under occupation.

Israel, invoking its deportation policy for the first time in 16 months; said last Saturday it would expel four Palestinians because they belong to the Muslim fundamentalist movement Hamas, a key player in the three-year-old Palestinian uprising.

Saudi King Urged To Start Arab Dialogue

JN1912130990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Dec 90 p 1

["A Word" column by Jum'ah Hammad: "The Arab Dialogue"]

[Text] The Arab dialogue is the road to the Arab solution; the Arab dialogue cannot be held without an Arab meeting; and the Arab meeting is subject to the brothers in Saudi Arabia.

How can that man from the Arab Maghreb, Chadli Bendjedid, tour all the Arab capitals around the Arabian Peninsula with an open mind and an independent initiative to start the desired Arab dialogue and fly over Riyadh without being received at the focal point of the Arab dialogue, the Saudi capital?

We have known the men of the Saudi family to be wise, sagacious, and shrewd. So why is this ordeal that is experienced by their nation being exempted from their wisdom and sagacity? Why is the heavy responsibility which they bear in this fearful predicament slipping from their prudence and shrewdness? Is it the huge wealth that causes complacency and opulence, covers men's hearts, and creates weakness and fear of high-aiming ambitions, decisive decisions, and courageous initiatives?

How can they, who are known for their intelligence and prudence, ignore what we and all the Arab peoples believe—that despite all justifications, the presence of half a million foreign soldiers in the land of the Arabian Peninsula means an occupation, which may go beyond the Arabian Peninsula to the entire Arab East? Do they not understand the statements made by U.S. leaders every day that these forces have come not to protect them but to guarantee the flow of oil and protect Israel?

Why is there this hesitation to start a dialogue and call for a meeting in Riyadh or other capitals? Are they waiting for a whisper from the White House or a word from its ambassador in Riyadh by telephone?

The late King Faysal pledged not to end the oil crisis in 1973 until he prayed in Jerusalem. How is it that his successor, the custodian of the two holy mosques, does not agree to link Jerusalem's liberation from Israeli occupation to Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait, a chance that will not come again?

Does the custodian of the two holy mosques imagine that these two holy mosques will be safe if the disaster occurs, and that they are not now under crusader occupation?

Objectively speaking, the elements for an Arab dialogue exist in Riyadh, and the custodian of the two holy mosques should act like he wants to save the nation from this nightmare, which is threatening the roots of its existence.

'Immediate' Intervention of UNSC Urged

JN1912083290 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Dec 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Peace's the Answer"]

[Text] Much hope has been pinned on the proposed U.S.-Iraqi talks at a time when Washington intended to use such talks just to deliver an ultimatum to Baghdad: Withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally or face war. Since the object of the dialogue, according to Washington, is simply to serve Baghdad with the U.N. Security Council Resolution 678, one wonders why the U.S. took it upon itself to act on behalf of the council without any specific mandate from it. In this context it would be more prudent to have other members of the council involved in such limited discussions which also inlcude the non-permanent members if this is the sole purpose of them. Paris, Moscow, Sana'a, Bogota and other capitals represented in the council are equally involved in the process of serving the sentence on Iraq if that is all that is intended in the envisaged Washington-Baghdad contacts. The case would be of course different if U.S. President George Bush seeks to engage Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in genuine and profound dialogue. There is no doubt that the ongoing difficulty associated with arranging meetings between the two sides stems primarily from the fact that Washington is knocking at Baghdad's door with threats and bellicose statements that aim to preempt the results of the projected talks. Had the White House abstained from uttering belligerent declarations on the eve of the Bush-'Aziz talks and instead made conciliatory statements, the issue of determining the date for the visit of the U.S. secretary of state to Baghdad would have never posed a problem in the first place. In the light of the complications that ensued, however, it is imperative that the other members of the council, notably the permanent ones, intervene immediately and offer their good offices with a view to arrive at an acceptable date for the potentially promising talks. No one wishes to lecture the council on how to approach its dialogue with Iraq but it would be wise to caution against embarking on it with threats and warnings. Such approaches have gotten the world nowhere thus far and it is high time that the international community—especially the superpowers—adopted a more imaginative attitude towards Iraq. Short of war, which one gathers the entire human race would rather not resort to, the only alternative left to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait peacefully is to engage it into meaningful negotiations on the basis of the 12 resolutions and by acting and talking in a more conciliatory manner. It is perplexing that other permanent members of the Security Council are taking a back seat on the matter and have left the responsibility to Washington to get Iraq into a talking mood. There is no excuse for the other capitals to act as mere spectators when the stakes are so high and far-reaching. This is not time for low profile diplomacy and the rest of the countries with sufficient clout with Iraq and the other major players in the Gulf crisis are called upon to pitch in their efforts in order to save the region from disastrous consequences. The Jan. 15 deadline prescribed by the council is not so sacrosanct that it cannont be extended should there be signs that a peaceful way out is in the horizon. Once the process of peace gains a foothold, there will be opportunity for everyone to get satisfactory results from it. War will be in nobody's interest.

UNICEF Says Crisis Increases Poverty

JN2012091990 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20-22 Dec 90 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Excerpts] Amman—Over one million Jordanians live below the poverty line and 130,000 to 160,000 of them in "absolute poverty," United Nations officials said Wednesday.

The finding, as revealed by a preliminary survey, was announced at the formal launching of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) "the State of the World's Children 1991" by UNICEF regional Director Richard Reid and his deputy Nigel Fisher.

The survey, conducted by UNICEF teams assisted by government officials, covered 500 families in 33 distinct areas all over the Kingdom, they said.

Reid, addressing a press conference, described the finding as "shocking" and Fisher said the figures were "conservative" and were arrived at after taking into consideration that 20 per cent of the Jordanian population were determined by a 1988 finding as below the poverty line and three per cent as in absolute poverty.

The parameters that guided the survey, Fisher explained, were based on an income of JD [Jordanian dinars] 89 per household per month as the poverty line and an income below that as "absolute poverty" where the family is unable to meet its basic food needs. [passage omitted]

"The picture is indeed very bleak. What the Gulf crisis has done to Jordan is to make it instantly a less developed country from a middle-income country" prior to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Reid said.

Both Reid and Fisher said while the Gulf crisis on its own could not be blamed for the overall situation, the economic impact of the conflict had aggravated the problems accumulated over the past three years.

"Here we have a situation where the gross national product of the country has been cut by 40 per cent even

without a war in the Gulf." Reid said posing a question on what the situation would be like if a military conflict were to break out in the region. [passage omitted]

Reid said he had formally presented a copy of the State of the World's children to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan earlier Wednesday and discussed with him the problems of Jordan in relation to health and education services. "His Highness replied with an unqualified yes when asked whether Jordan would be able to maintain the present level of health and education services," he said.

At the same time, Reid and Fisher also warned that the entire situation could get out of hand in the event of war erupting in the Gulf. "Hopefully, common sense and realisation of the massive destruction and devastation that a (conflagration) would cause would avert a war," Reid said.

Editorial Views Economic Decline

JN2012092190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20-21 Dec 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Beyond the Hills..."]

[Text] Beyond Amman's three or four elite and prosperous hills live over one million Jordanians who cannot find enough to eat. These are shocking statistics in any country in the world, and even more so when the whole population of the country in question is little over three million. The statistics released by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) yesterday pointed at the Gulf crisis as one of the main contributors to this marked deterioration in our living standards. However, one cannot forget a few facts about this situation that were evidently at play in Jordan before Aug. 2. One of these facts is that 25 per cent of the population was already living below the poverty line before that date. Now we witness a five per cent increase in that figure. If one follows the chain of events it becomes obvious that Jordan lost a large percentage of per capita income during the past two years. The unemployment rate before Aug. 2 was unofficially computed at 20 per cent of the work force and although it could have doubled by now with the return of almost 140,000 expatriates, the problem was one to be reckoned with before the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait.

The statistics we face today are shocking not only in their human aspects, and they are tragic, but also in their political implications for this country. The marked decline of our economy with obvious repercussions on smaller family units will create more radical sentiments in the country. If history is to be learned from one can see indicators in the shift towards fanaticism and extremism in the country rising with the decline of the living standards of Jordanians.

In the seventies and eighties Jordan borrowed against promises of Arab aid that never materialised. What remained from these promises is an $8.3 billion national debt and a majority of Jordanians angry with oil-rich Arab states which never fulfilled their pledges to help Jordan as a frontline state against Israel. That seems to have been one of the main contributors to the popular support Iraq enjoyed when it took over Kuwait. What we are faced with now is the possibility of an increase of that sentiment coupled with a more concrete resentment of Western inaction and lack of support for Jordan's repeated calls for a peaceful end to the Gulf crisis. If we accept realities for what they are: Richer Arab states will not help Jordan because of its balanced policy and the Western world will punish this country for its rejection of Western hegemony. But even then mistakes of the past should not be repeated. Each economic and political step taken by the Kingdom has to be taken with an eye to political and economic shifts in the country and ways to create policies to help Jordan deal with its difficult future. For although the past two years were obviously full of economic and political surprises the coming years will not be visiting us bearing gifts.

Prince Hasan Interviewed on Gulf Issues

JN2012110990 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] The British television network ITN has interviewed His Highness Crown Prince Hasan on the latest developments in the Gulf. In this interview he said:

[Begin recording, in English] [Reporter] We should have been in the midst of the talks between President Bush and Foreign Minister 'Aziz from Iraq. And indeed we've had a flurry of activity recently involving the Algerians. What's your evaluation now as to the overall diplomatic position?

[Hasan] What we heard today is the possibility, and I believe this is the president again, President Bush, that the talks may take place. On the other hand, of course, the Arab contribution to solving the Iraq-Kuwait crisis by inviting Iraq and Kuwait to talk directly, or Iraq and indeed the Saudis, is still in abeyance. The Algerian president has returned, and I call it a contribution not a solution as such, because once those talks start in Washington about the implemention of withdrawal, there has to be a subsequent discussion between the Iraqis and the Arabs about solving the Kuwait-Iraq dispute.

[Reporter] Now the Arab [words indistinct]. Is Jordan's position that it would accept a solution that left Iraq in control of those three items?

[Hasan] This is basically an Iraqi-Kuwaiti discussion. Our concern is that withdrawals begin, that UN resolutions are implemented. I noticed with some concern that Mr. Baker was [words indistinct] UN resolutions saying that he doesn't accept partial withdrawals, and I don't really see how withdrawals can be effected by the 15th of January. Let's assume that the green light is given as a result of a discussion and those talks begin. Do we then assume that if they are partial by the 15th, that the war option would be exercised. I think that we have to

exhaust the diplomatic option and I don't see it getting together, certainly given the very strong positions on both sides. [end recording]

JCP Leader Criticizes Invasion of Kuwait

JN1912122390 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 30 Nov 90 p 13

[Interview with Dr. Ya'qub Zayadin, secretary general of the Jordanian Communist Party (JCP), by Khalid al-Rashid in Amman—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Rashid] Let us begin by talking about Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

[Zayadin] Our opinion about the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait has been clear right from the beginning. On Thursday, 2 August, I expressed my opinion about this regrettable event, and it was published in the newspaper AL-DUSTUR on Friday, 3 August. I said this invasion is unjustifiable and that an understanding can be reached on all outstanding problems between Kuwait and Iraq and a solution can be found for them through peaceful negotiations with the help of sisterly countries, thus acting in line with the world atmosphere that calls for resolving problems peacefully. As I have said, this invasion might lead to complications and both Arab and international problems whose seriousness cannot be predicted by anyone. I have expressed this viewpoint since the first day of the Iraqi invasion and it was regrettable that that was the only opinion in Jordan in this direction. But days have proven the soundness of this opinion. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait is absolutely unjustifiable, for how can an Arab country attack another sisterly country that is a member of the United Nations, the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Nonaligned Movement?

The secretary general of the Jordanian Communist Party [JCP] adds: What was the result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait? Did that not open the door wide for the foreign forces to enter the Gulf? The main beneficiary of this action (Iraq's invasion of Kuwait) was the United States, which came to the region under the slogan of defending international legitimacy and the sovereignty of Kuwait and the Gulf only to defend its interests in the Gulf. I believe that the United States has for 30 years been waiting for such an opportunity. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait opened the widest door for it to do so with the help of 28 states and within the framework of international legitimacy.

Dr. Ya'qub Zayadin adds: The demonstrations staged in Jordan last August in support of the Iraqi invasion were really regrettable. But I view these demonstrations as an expression of the hatred our people in Jordan harbor for the United States. The people realize quite well the aggression the United States has committed against several countries and nations, whether in Vietnam, Korea, Palestine, or elsewhere. I believe that they (those who demonstrated in support of the invasion) should have realized who committed aggression and what his history and actions are. Naturally, these demonstrations might have been staged in support of the Iraqi people. Hence, I say that we, too, are with the Iraqi people and care much for them. We cared for them during the Iran-Iraq war and we care for them now that they are facing 28 countries. We are also afraid that the Iraqi Army might be destroyed and annihilated. [passage omitted]

The JCP secretary general adds: Let us look at what has happened in Kuwait. What unity is this? What annexation is this? This is an invasion. Israel did not do in the occupied territories what the Iraqi invasion did in Kuwait. There is conclusive evidence of this. Hospitals, schools, shops, and houses were looted. Is this unity and does this render a service to the Arab peoples? Certainly not. We are for Arab unity, but for unity which is based on democracy that is decided by the people and that is in their interest. There should be no annexation or domination by a country with a large population over another with a smaller population, or by a strong people over a weak one. [passage omitted]

Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was certainly not in the interest of progress or Arab democracy and unity. It came only to solve the Iraqi regime's crisis inside Iraq. Facts and figures prove the bankruptcy from which the Iraqi regime is suffering as a result of an eight-year war and successive losses. It is regrettable that many Arab intellectuals have drifted behind the false mirage of unity, freedom, and progress. Our position here is clear; we are not with the Arab regimes. But this is not the method. Let us allow people to struggle for their future, freedom, and democracy.

Dr. Ya'qub Zayadin adds: Some say we must support the Iraqi people. I wonder where are the Iraqi people? Who is speaking in their name? Is there a party, group, or union expressing the Iraqi people's opinion? What is happening in Iraq is that one person is speaking on behalf of Iraq and imposing on it all these wars and crises. This, of course, is unacceptable.

The JPC secretary general wonders: What unity are they talking about at a time when Saddam Husayn could not find a single Kuwaiti who accepted to cooperate with him or support his invasion of Kuwait? As for the issue of annexation, we, for example, were aware that Syria had—years ago—ambitions to annex Jordan to it, but we resisted that. As it has been known throughout, Jordan was considered part of southern Syria. Libya was also part of Egypt, and Iraq itself was part of Syria. So, would it be logical to return to these issues at present and say these were divided by colonialism? Can these issues be settled through the use of force? We are clearly against all this. We also clearly say that there should be an Arab solution to the issue, based on Iraq's immediate withdrawal from Kuwait and on granting the Kuwaiti people the freedom to self-determination. Any outstanding issues should be tackled by the Arab countries or the Arab League. Upon Iraq's withdrawal, international or Arab forces might be deployed between the two countries. This operation has harmed the Arab nation and put

back Arab unity by many years. It has led to the collapse of the Jordanian economy and to the economic straits from which Yemen and Egypt are suffering, in addition to the destruction of Kuwait. It has also given Israel an opportunity to tighten its grip over the West bank and to open fire and kill or wound hundreds of people everyday. Why have these weapons not been directed toward the common enemy—Israel and America—and why was this action?

The JCP secretary general adds: If this action was taken to link the occupation of Kuwait with the occupation of Palestine, why has Jordan, for example, not occupied any Arab city and bargained with Israel and America for an exchange with the West Bank? This is illogical. A brother should not hit his brother in order to force the enemy to make concessions to him. We are against the Israeli aggression and this is a very big issue which should not be linked to that of the Kuwaiti people, who are displaced everywhere. These people have not committed a crime. Despite our objection to some misdeeds that used to happen in Kuwait, we are still convinced that the Kuwaiti people can solve their problems by themsleves and attain democracy. We are for resolving this issue.

Dr. Ya'qub Zayadin adds: Many of our columnists (in Jordan) scoff at the American Army, saying there are scorpions and snakes that will sting the American soldiers and that these soldiers cannot put up with the desert heat, although the American Army was trained in the Nevada desert. It is the army which fought and lost 630,000 [figure as received] soldiers in Korea. We did not hear of anything happening in America to prevent or stand against that. Some voices might be heard, but this did not prevent America from deciding on the Vietnam war and losing hundreds of thousands. The U.S. Army may lose 10,000, 20,000, or 30,000 soldiers, as they say, but what will happen to Iraq? What about the destruction that will happen in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia? What about Jordan? It is possible that Israel may occupy Jordan. All these are possibilities standing before our eyes. We clearly say that waging a war now is not in the interest of the Arab nation. Why are these uncalculated adventures? [passage omitted]

Therefore, any war will take Iraq and the region back hundreds of years. If the Americans lose tens of thousands, the Arabs will lose hundreds of thousands and there is no room for victory in such a battle. Dangers are numerous: Turkey threatens to detach Mosul from Iraq and Iran warns it will not allow any change in the geogpraphical map of Kuwait.

The JCP secretary general adds: Friends and states, including the Soviet Union, France, and China, strongly oppose and condemn this aggression. Why then is this stubborness and arrogance? In whose interest is support for this hazardous stubborness and arrogance? A tremendous danger is posed to the Arab nation. Are the Iraqi people not content with the sufferings of the Iran-Iraq war? And what were the results of this war which benefited neither Iran nor Iraq, but only the Americans who at one time used to buy oil at $8 or even $5 per barrel? Over a million were killed or wounded in that war. We are unequivocally against what is going on and we are for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the foreign forces' withdrawal from the Gulf. America may hesitate to withdraw. A peaceful Arab solution worries America most. Therefore, it is encouraging stubbornness. Hence, the solution lies in Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and in Arab and international pressure on America to withdraw from the region. Its aggressiveness will then be further revealed and it will be forced to withdraw.

The Americans want to destroy Iraq and the Iraqi Army completely. This does not serve the interests of the Arab nation or the Kuwaiti people, those fraternal and amicable people who extended assistance and billions of dollars to Iraq during the war. What is taking place now is not what the displaced Kuwaiti people were expecting. The Kuwaiti people were demanding freedom, democracy, and participation in power. Now they are demanding self-determination. They have retreated a great deal as a result of this invasion. All world and progressive forces reject and condemn this invasion and the Arab Organization for the Defense of Human Rights is doing so, too. Therefore, there should be a rapid Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

[Al-Rashid] How do you view the average Jordanian's attitude toward Iraq's occupation of Kuwait? Is there a change in this attitude? If so, what are the reasons for this change?

[Zaydan] I mentioned this in the previous answer. There is a real change in the attitude of the average Jordanian and even the Jordanian newspapers. On Sunday, 11 November, the main newspaper published two statements calling for Iraq's withdrawal. This was the first time in the Jordanian press. As for the popular circles, they have begun to realize what has happened. Contributing to this change was the return of hundreds of thousands from Kuwait and the Gulf who saw with their own eyes the impact this invasion had on the Kuwaiti people and Kuwait and on their own interests. This helped communicate the facts to the people in Jordan. People saw the hundreds of thousands of people who were displaced in the desert or those who slept in Amman streets. They saw hundreds of children die from hunger or disease. All these are tragedies. Also, following the gathering of all these destructive forces, people began to realize that any war would be devastating and they began to fear its consequences. [passage omitted]

[Al-Rashid] How much has Jordan been influenced by Iraq's occupation of Kuwait?

[Zayadin] Tens of thousands of employees and workers in Kuwait and the Gulf lost their jobs and all of their money. Moreover, the American siege on the port of al-'Aqabah deprived 12,000 workers of their jobs. Transportation to other countries was also disrupted and another 12,000 workers lost their jobs in this sector. A

large amount of vegetables and fruit could not be exported and Saudi oil to Jordan was cut off. Jordan's relations with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Syria were strained. Jordan also lost hundreds of millions that were given to it by Kuwait. The return of hundreds of thousands has also caused problems in various domains—housing, water, schools, labor, and so forth—in addition to the existing problems in Jordan. All these problems piled up and Jordan found itself in a dangerous situation as a result of this crisis. [passage omitted]

JCP States Position

JN2012091890 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] Amman, AL-RA'Y—An official spokesman for the Jordanian Communist Party [JCP] has stated the following:

The statements attributed to Dr. Ya'qub Zayadin that were published in al-Shariqah-based AL-KHALIJ on 30 November 1990 have aroused many sentiments and questions. In view of the importance of the matter, the Political Bureau of the JCP Central Committee has held a full meeting under Secretary General Dr. Ya'qub Zayadin, during which the statements and their circumstances and consequences were discussed and it was unanimously agreed that the published statements represent personal views.

Out of our concern to clarify the matter once more and avoid any misinterpretation or misunderstanding, we would like to assert that the JCP's policy on the Gulf crisis since its emergence in early August 1990 and on its ensuing developments, as clearly and frankly put in our party's documents and publications, is as follows:

A. The major danger threatening the Gulf and the entire Arab region emanates from the U.S., Atlantic, and allied military concentrations in the Gulf. If war breaks out, it will bring about a catastrophe to the whole region. Therefore, the main task for which the Arab masses and efforts must be mobilized is to prevent the outbreak of war and drive the foreign troops out of the region.

B. In order to achieve this, an Arab solution resulting from an inter-Arab dialogue among all Arab parties must be realized to preserve Iraq's military and economic capability and its legitimate demands, in addition to the Kuwaiti people's right to self-determination.

C. International legitimacy must also be applied at the same level on all issues and occupations. The simultaneous withdrawal of foreign and Israeli, as well as Iraqi, troops must also be ensured.

D. Democracy must be spread in the Arab countries, and the Arab masses' right to free expression, organization, and participation in taking the decisions concerning their destiny must be guaranteed. Arab oil wealth must be employed for the benefit of the Arab people's economic and social development.

E. Jordan's position and steadfastness must be supported vis-a-vis the threats facing it and the sanctions imposed against it.

Column Criticizes Communists

JN1912141390 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 19 Dec 90 p 16

["An Issue and an Opinion" column by Salamah 'Ukur: "We Wish That Our Arab Communist Comrades Had..."]

[Text] We wish that the Arab communist parties had taken a position on the Gulf dispute different from that of the American imperialists and their allies and supporters.

We wish they had rejected, condemned, or denounced the American-Atlantic colonialist invasion of the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf rather than launching or participating in the misleading campaign regarding the so-called "Kuwaiti legitimacy," which they know to be illegitimate.

We wish that they had not stood in the trench hostile to the Arab liberation movement and the pan-Arab awakening and that they had not challenged the feelings of the sons of this nation, which has suffered and continues to suffer from the imperialists' hostility, their plundering of its wealth, their dominance of its destinies, and their confiscation of its right to freedom and independence and to political, economic, social, and cultural progress.

We wish they had stayed at the forefront of the forces which have been confronting the imperialists' ambitions, conspiracies, and plans to control peoples' destinies, persecute them, drain their wealth and efforts, and destroy their hopes for freedom and progress.

We have previously found excuses for Arab communist comrades when they adopted practically all the negative and positive sides of the Soviet positions. For example, they adopted such a position against late President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir's regime when they entered into a dispute with him that reflected negatively on that regime's ability to confront the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary alliance.

We have previously found excuses for the Jordanian and Arab communist comrades when they resisted the pan-Arab unionist trend and contributed to the encouragement of regional isolation under the cover of wrong ideological and political excuses.

We excused them when they adopted Moscow's positions, regardless of their effects on the conditions of the region's peoples and their liberation forces. It has been said that the Arab communists use their umbrellas when it rains in Moscow.

We found all these excuses for them, because we believed deeply that they stood by the Arab national liberation forces' front, and even on the forefront, and because we believed deeply in reinforcing the Arab-Soviet friendship, since we appreciated and respected the Soviets' support for the national and pan-Arab struggle, and for our national and pan-Arab rights.

But now that Gorbachev's leadership has made suspicious deals with the imperialists at the expense of developing nations' ambitions and aspirations, abandoned its solidarity and support for the liberation forces in the world, destroyed the pillars of the communist bloc countries, and quickly and purposefully crawled toward the imperialists' trench in order to conspire against the Third World countries and share their wealth, will the communist comrades continue to dance to Gorbachevian tunes when this dance is hurting their peoples and their just causes?

The statements, which have been made by Dr. Zayadin, some of his comrades, and official Arab communist parties since the Gulf crisis began, are part of the flagrant colonialist invasion campaign against the Gulf region and oppose the Arab liberation front.

We believe that the Communist Party in Jordan is in dire need of real perestroyka and glasnost, but not in the Gorbachevian style. It is not true that the current leadership of these parties will sacrifice all the glorious history of struggle of the party cadres who have offered much sacrifice for the sake of the peoples' liberation, progress, and salvation from the yoke of all forms of colonialism, old and new.

It is also not true that Jordanian and Arab communists will act against their peoples and take positions that serve no one but their enemies, because the strategy of communism is based primarily on hostility to imperialism, and since communism does not have confidence in the imperialists and always believes them to be wrong. We say this out of our concern for these vanguard forces and their important, historic role in the Arab liberation movement, hoping that they will not be driven into the suspect Gorbachevian ideas, because there is a great difference between the Soviets past and present.

Deputies Approve 1991 Draft State Budget

JN2012092490 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] The House of Representatives a short while ago approved the draft law of the general state budget for 1991 by a majority of 50 votes out of a total of 75 votes.

Muslim Brotherhood Critical

JN1912070390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Dec pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter 'Abdallah Hasanat]

[Text] Amman—Although the 1991 budget bill proposed by the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran seems to be heading for approval, deputies used the occasion of debating it yesterday to offer a variety of recipes to remedy the country's political, economic and social problems.

Before closing the session for a secret briefing by the prime minister on the Gulf crisis and Jordan's position on it, the House heard the report of its Financial Committee that approved the draft budget with only a JD 10 million reduction in the total figure of expenditure and some reservations made by four deputies.

During the debate that started Tuesday and will be resumed this morning, one deputy, Husayn Mujjali, a pan-Arab nationalist from Jarash, called on the prime minister to resign so that a new government could be formed. The new government, Mujjali said, should adopt alternative policies that would "protect Jordan's right of existence" and address the country's economic problems.

Bassam Haddadin, a leftist deputy from al-Zarqa', who is a member of the Financial Committee, said he objected to the committee's approval of the draft budget and urged the House to reject it.

Haddadin cited a number of reasons for his position. He said he agreed with Finance Minister Basil Jardanah that the 1991 budget was "only a continuation of previous budgets' trends."

He said that the budget revenues depended monstly on increased indirect taxes that would heavily weigh on the poor. "This was done instead of increasing income tax on people with higher income" he said.

He said the budget was still in the red and was heavily dependent on external borrowing to cover deficit.

He said that although the draft budget talks about a 1990-1996 comprehensive conomic plan, that plan "was worked out behind closed doors, without involving the political and economic groups that represent the interest of all social strata."

The 22-strong Muslim Brotherhood bloc in the House called for a comprehensive economic plan based on Islamic principles. The Brotherhood demanded the government review all financial legislation "in order to weed out any laws that contradict the Islamic Sharia."

They also called for the issuance of interest-free Islamic bonds, the provision of financial facilities for Islamic banks, the extension of more loans to farmers, the enactment of a zakat (alm) law and negotiations with Arab and Islamic financial institutions to urge them to invest in the country. Yusif Khasawinah, a deputy from Irbid, presented the Brotherhood's position to the House.

Citing the Financial Committee's report that put the Kingdom's servicing of debts at 38.9 per cent of total exports, the Brotherhood called for halting borrowing from abroad and the commencement of the building of an Islamic economy.

They urged the government to include autonomous government istitutions' budget in the main budget in accordance to the Constitution that stipulates that all public expenditure should be approved by Parliament.

The Brotherhood reviewed all fields of government activity and urged the government to enact reforms based on Islamic Sharia.

Going along with the Finance Committee's recommendations, the Brotherhood called for increasing the numerical strength of the Armed Forces with "young people who believe in God and are ready to sacrifice and who long for martydom."

Reading a statment on behalf of the 13-member National Bloc, Deputy Sulayman 'Arar (Ma'an) noted that the 1991 budget comes at a time when Jordan and the whole region are entering into a crucial phase.

"In light of these circumstances, there is no way for us but to depend on our own resources to get out of the crisis," he said.

The bloc stressed that Jordan, which has only limited resources, should not burden its budget with extra commitments.

The bloc also called for reforms in the fields of agriculture, public administration, industry and employment.

They called on the government to allow public shareholding companies to allocate 10 percent of their profits to be invested in new projects.

They also called for army conscripts to be trained for six months only after which they should be employed in Jordanian insitutions for reduced wages.

Deputy Fu'ad al-Khalafat, a Brotherhood deputy from al-Tafilah, earlier listed a number of alleged violations by Jordan Television and Radio. He said that spending at JTV and Jordan Radio was unconstiutional because it did not fall under the control of the Ministry of Finance and the Audit Bureau.

He cited a number of cases in which he said official media institutions violated the laws. These included the employment by the Jordan News Agency (Petra) of foreign nationals to edit its news bulletins.

Al-Khalafat criticised the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington that he said cost JD 180,000 annually. The bureau, he sad, is "run by a computer engineer," one-time Jordan Times columnist Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashir.

Nabih Birri Views Army Deployment in South

NC2012065190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The Army will suppress all illegal practices and subdue all lawbreakers no matter who they are. In this regard, preparations are under way to establish a force from members of four brigades to carry out storming operations, confiscate weapons, and arrest all gunmen who violate the Greater Beirut Plan.

Concerning Iqlim al-Tuffah, Minister Nabih Birri has told the Cabinet that an agreement has been reached by the quadirpartite committee. The agreement provides for the deployment of Army units in Iqlim al-Tuffah, including al-Luwayzah and western al-Biqa', Birri added.

Minister Birri has been cited as saying that the agreement, which was brokered by Syria and Iran, provides for the Army's deployment in various areas in the south in addition to Iqlim al-Tuffah. Birri affirmed that the Army Command has been informed of this agreement.

Meanwhile, a ministerial source has said that the Cabinet was briefed on the agreement and informed that the timing of the Army deployment is the exclusive concern of the Army Command. The source added that the Cabinet will step up its diplomatic exchanges to ensure political support for the Army deployment plan. The source went on to say that the deployment will extend throughout most of the south, including areas facing the border strip.

Resistance Group Clashes With Israeli Patrol

NC2012093390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Security sources in the south have reported that a resistance group and an Israeli patrol clashed for two hours with machine guns and antitank rockets in Shab'a late last night. The resistance group was heading toward Upper Galilee in occupied Palestine. Four Israeli fighter planes flew over the area, dropping flares.

The same sources added that a joint Israeli-Lahdist patrol searched the scene of the fighting this morning while four Cobra helicopters, flying at very low altitude, combed nearby valleys and woods.

There have been no immediate reports on casualties.

SLA, Nasirite Forces Engage in 'Fierce Clashes'

NC1912172790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Fierce clashes took place between the Martyr Ma'urf Sa'd forces of the Nasirite Popular Liberation Army and the agent [South Lebanese Army] militia at dawn today. Various types of machine guns and rockets were used in the clashes, which lasted for several hours and were followed by a state of guarded calm.

Israeli Reinforcements, Lahd Remarks Reported

NC2012094490 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 19 Dec 90 p 4

[Excerpts] AL-SAFIR—The Israeli occupation forces sent fresh reinforcements to the border area yesterday. Meanwhile, agent Lahd militiamen infiltrated the liberated areas in the eastern sector and mounted a seach.

According to security reports, a force from the Israeli Golani Brigade consisting of 400 men and supported by well over 100 armored cars has been deployed along the confrontation lines with the liberated areas. [passage omitted]

In another development, Antoine Lahd, commander of the border militia men, has declared that as of today he will not accept any decision from the Lebanese state that ignores the occupied border strip.

In a speech at a ceremony held in al-Naqurah, attended by General Peled, Israeli commander of the northern sector, Lahd said: It is in the border areas interests to live in peace with Israel. Other areas are demanding the same thing with Syria; we have no objection to this, but we want peace with Israel, Lahd added.

Defense Minister Returns From Visit to Libya

NC1812190390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Defense Minister Dr. Albert Mansur returned to Beirut today from an official visit to Libya in response to an invitation from Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunus, member of the Libyan command and secretary of the defense committee [title as heard].

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi received Minister Mansur today. They discussed developments in the Lebanese issue and Arab affairs, particularly the situation in the Gulf. Col. al-Qadhdhafi voiced the Libyan Jamajiriyah's full support for the Lebanese legitimate government and for the march of peace and accord.

During his visit, Minister Mansur held several meetings with Col. Abu-Bakr Yunus and the Libyan military commanders. According to official sources, Libya will extend military assistance [not further specified] to the Lebanese Army. The assistance is expected to arrive in Lebanon soon.

Syria Reportedly Convinced Saddam Wants War

TA2012090990 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Dec 90 p 4

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari, Arnon Yafe, and agencies]

[Excerpt] Syria has reached the conclusion that Saddam Husayn is interested in war and that there is no point in trying to reach a compromise with him. Although some central figures in Baghdad, such as Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, do not agree with him, Saddam is supported by the radical wing of the Ba'th party on the issue. That is why there was a change in the Syrian position this week. Damascus has now overcome its hesitations about the need to go to war. It also fears the reports that within a year Iraq will have a nuclear option, foreign diplomatic sources in Israel told 'AL HAMISHMAR.

The sources said the Syrian assessment convinced Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to abandon the pan-Arab mediation efforts. The Algerian president is due to leave this weekend for talks in Paris and Rome. His spokesmen say the talks are aimed at "an exchange of ideas about the possibilities of preventing a war," rather than mediatory efforts.

The sources also said that a similar change is about to take place in Jordan's position, in the wake of Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran's talks in Damascus, and that Amman will ask that the alliance with Syria be renewed. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar' Returns From UAE, Comments on Talks

JN2012083690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus tonight after a short visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. He conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE. He was seen off by UAE Foreign Minister Rashid al-'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, the chief of Protocol at the Foreign Ministry, Syrian Ambassador in Abu Dhabi Mustafa 'Umran, and the embassy staff.

This afternoon, al-Shar' met with Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, UAE heir apparent and deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces. The UAE foreign minister attended the meeting. The talks, during the meeting, dealt with the developments in the Gulf crisis and the Arab situation in general.

Al-Shar' held talks with UAE Foreign Minister Rashid al-'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi at noon today. The talks focused on the international situation, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the developments resulting from the continuation of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. They also dealt with ways to reinforce and develop relations between the two sisterly countries. The two sides affirmed the importance of coordination and cooperation between the Gulf Cooperation Council states, Syria, and Egypt in the interest of the Arab nation to achieve security and stability in the Gulf.

The meetings were attended by the chief of the Arab Homeland Desk at the Syrian Foreign Minister and Syrian Ambassador to the UAE Mustafa 'Umran.

Before leaving Abu Dhabi airport, al-Shar' answered the questions of Arab and foreign media correspondents. He said: Syria hopes that Iraq will withdraw from Kuwait before the final deadline set by the UN Security Council resolution so that the whole Arab nation, particularly the fraternal Iraqi people, will be spared the hazards of implementing the UN resolutions on the military option. He said that the peace option is in the hands of the Iraqi leadership. Unless a complete Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait is achieved, severe tension will continue to prevail in the region and Iraq will be subject to dangers. We hope that we will not reach this stage.

Al-Shar' added that ongoing Arab efforts aim basically to achieve what was agreed upon by all Arab states without exception—that is, an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. Otherwise, every Arab effort will be a waste of time.

The foreign minister said: Iraq is the one which aborted the Arab solution from the first days of the invasion. the Iraqi withdrawal from the State of Kuwait in implementation of the Arab and international will will help in convening an international peace conference on the Middle East in the presence of all concerned parties.

Al-Shar' said views were identical on all the topics that were discussed with the senior UAE officials, particularly on ways to solve the Gulf crisis and on the proposed initiatives which state that the way out of the crisis depends on a decision to be made by Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

In his answers to the journalists' questions, al-Shar' dealt with the repercussions of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He said: At the top of these repercussions are the blow dealt to the unity of Arab ranks, the obstruction of Arab solidarity, the weakening role of the Arab League, and the preoccupation of the Arabs with serious, unaccounted-for issues.

Answering a question on the results of his visit to the UAE, the foreign minister stated: An agreement was reached to continue consultations between the two countries in the interest of the Arab nation. He added that Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan asked him to convey a reply message to President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Shar' Urges Definition of Terrorism, Struggle

JN1912181390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Dec 90

["Text" of message from Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to UN Secretary General Dr. Javier Perez de Cuellar "including the response of the Syrian Arab

Republic, SAR, with regard to convening an international conference to define terrorism and to distinguish it from people's struggle for national liberation" on 19 December]

[Text] The SAR condemns all forms of terrorism, which is aimed against the life and property of innocent people and which exposes the sovereignty of states to violation. It calls for establishing genuine cooperation among all states to adopt effective measures to prevent terrorism and to end its causes through finding definite international criteria that enables the international community to distinguish clearly between terrorism—which should be condemned and resisted—and national struggle against foreign occupation—which should be protected and supported.

Proceeding from this, the SAR welcomed the historic UN General Assembly Resolution 159/42, which was a major step in expanding and encouraging effective cooperation within the framework of international legitimacy to combat international terrorism—which claims innocent souls or exposes them to danger, and which threatens basic liberties. It has studied the causes behind the forms of terrorism and violence resulting from misery, disappointment, and feelings of injustice and despair; it has also reaffirmed the people's right to self-determination, independence, and the legitimacy of their struggle. For the first time, the resolution has considered convening an international conference to define terrorism and distinguish it from people's struggle for national liberation as one of the methods of dealing with international terrorism.

The importance of UN General Assembly Resolution No. 49/44, which was adopted through agreement in the UN General Assembly 44th Session, lies in the fact that it consecrates these principles and considers holding an international conference to define terrorism as essential to ending the great confusion between terrorism and people's struggle for liberation, and essential to ending the campaign of terror and intimidation launched by some countries to prevent people under the yoke of foreign occupation from struggling to achieve liberation and restore their sovereignty and independence. At the same time, the resolution encourages international cooperation in every field to combat terrorism, uproot it, and end its evils; it also places the international community on the right path to end this phenomenon, which has obstructed humanity for many centuries.

The SAR, which was the first to propose an international conference to distinguish terrorism from people's liberation struggle—from a responsible point of view and out of its concern to protect international legitimacy and to underscore the principles of international law—praises the UN secretary general's efforts to learn the opinions of the member states on this conference and wishes him success in these efforts to implement his powers in accordance with the above-mentioned resolution.

Al-Zu'bi Confers With Kuwait's Al-Ya'qub

JN2012102990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at 1200 [1000 GMT] today Dr. Badr al-Ya'qub, Kuwaiti minister of state for National Assembly affairs and information minister. The meeting was attended by Information Minister Muhammad Salman and Kuwaiti Ambassador in Damascus Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Jasim.

Talks dealt with the brotherly cooperation between Syria and Kuwait, which is entrenched in all fields. The prime minister was briefed on the Kuwaiti minister's talks in Damascus and the positive results accomplished in terms of cooperation in the information field, with emphasis on its importance.

Talks also dealt with the serious situation as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The Kuwaiti minister praised Syria's pan-Arab and principled position under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, which is represented in working to bring about the implementation of the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit that was held in Cairo which call for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of legitimacy. The talks also dealt with several issues of interest.

Kuwaiti Minister Arrives To 'Expand' Cooperation

JN2012095790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Damascus—Kuwaiti Finance Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi al-Sabah arrived in Damascus last night heading a delegation on a three-day visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus International Airport by ministers of finance, economy and foreign trade, and state for planning affairs.

The Kuwaiti minister told a SANA correspondent he is glad to be making the visit and said it is part of efforts to promote and expand the scope of economic cooperation between Kuwait and Syria to cover new fields, whether through the Kuwaiti Development Fund or the Investment Company.

Israel Intransigence on UN Resolutions Viewed

JN1712213690 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 12 Dec 90 p 8

[Article signed by A. 'Ubayd: "Shamir Is Taking the International Community Lightly]

[Text] On the eve of Shamir's visit to the United States, Israel has accentuated its basic positions toward Middle East issues. It laid particular emphasis on its denial of the rights of the Palestinian people and its clinging to the occupied territories, considering Jerusalem its capital, and its determination to inflict defeat on the intifadah. Meanwhile, Israel has imposed a curfew on all Arab citizens, and clashes intensified while the intifadah is

still valiantly resisting Zionist repression, thus proving its credibility and continuity on its fourth anniversary.

After Shamir's arrival in the United States, the statements made by Israeli officials were mainly on the above positions, which conflict with the principles and trends of the world and the United Nations. These statements emphasize Israel's final and absolute rejection of an international conference at a time when the Security Council is trying to work out a formula that ensures protection for the Palestinian people and reflects UN and world trends on the explosive issues in the world. Moreover, Shamir launched an attack on the role of the United Nations, demanding that the Security Council give up its international mission. After all that, Shamir came to ask the United States for aid amounting to $40 billion. Shamir did not conceal the fact that this amount would be employed to ensure a steady flow of Jewish immigrants to Palestine at the expense of Arabs, and to receive about 5 million Jews that Israel hopes will arrive in the next decade. Israel, moreover, hopes that this number of immigrants will resolve the "problem" by liquidating the Palestine question.

Shamir has taken with him to the United States the Zionist decision that advocates expansion and superiority so as to oppose, by this decision, the efforts by the Security Council five permanent member states and the legitimacy of international resolutions.

After setting a date for the Shamir-Bush meeting, the Israeli press, as reported by the enemy radio, admitted that the issuance of any resolution by the Security Council that mentions the need for an international peace conference in the region would throw Israel into an "international court." The question here, however, is why does Israel fear UN resolutions if it were truly honest in talking about peace, especially since UN resolutions do not say anything about "annihilating Israel?"

Israel has not only taken international resolutions lightly, but it wants the United States, which is assuming the responsibilities of a superpower in the world, to follow suit and to commit itself to its expansionist ideas. There is no doubt that Washington has begun to advise Israel on the need to heed world opinion and to stop disregarding its position on Palestinians under occupation and settlements. This advice was expressed in the U.S. position as conveyed by Ambassador Djerejian to the Syrian Foreign Ministry—the position that rejects acquisition of territory by force, calls for application of Resolutions 242 and 338 and for an international conference at the appropriate time, and urges working to protect the Palestinian people.

Although the United States unmistakably talks about its intimate friendship with Israel, Tel Aviv has begun to express fears and dismay over the way Washington has been dealing with the events in the region, especially the deteriorating situation in the occupied Arab territories, taking into consideration also the serious change in the way the international community has been dealing with the Palestine question.

EC Decide To Extend Loans, Grants to Syria

JN2012092790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Brussels—The European Community foreign ministers decided during their meeting in Brussels yesterday to extend grants and loans to Syria and a number of Mediterranean countries. Reuter said that these grants and loans will be extended within the framework of bilateral agreements between the EC and the concerned Mediterranean countries

Bangladesh

Election Commission Changes Date to March 2

BK2012051290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0431 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 20 (AFP)—Bangladesh's election commission has changed the date of upcoming elections to February 27 from March 2 because a Moslem holiday is likely to fall on the original date.

An Election Commission announcement late Wednesday night said that the National Moon Sighting Committee had advised that Shab-e-Barat, the date of which is determined by the phases of the moon, was likely to fall between February 28 and March 2.

All other dates in the election schedule would remain unchanged, the commission announcement said, with nomination papers to be filed by January 10.

Shab-e-Barat, a night on which Moslems believe prayers must be offered for the coming year, falls 15 days before the fasting month of Ramadan.

The elections were called after the fall of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad December 6 by interim president Shahabuddin Ahmed.

Commission on Ershad Corruption Begins Work

BK1912132090 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] The acting president of Bangladesh, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, has called upon the media people to extend their full cooperation in restoring law and order for holding free and fair elections in the country. Addressing editors, owners, and union representatives of newspapers, news agencies, and other communications media in Dhaka Wednesday [19 December], the acting president highly praised their role in the democratic movement of the country. He also urged journalists to disseminate objective and impartial news and views through newspapers and other mass media.

The acting president said the three-man committee set up to investigate allegation of corruption and misuse of power by the former president and his accomplices has already started its work. Justice Shahabuddin said the repeal of amendment to Special Powers Act is under active consideration of his government.

Some of the editors attending the meeting called for repeal Special Powers Act, impartial coverage of radio and television, tuning up of administration, and activating financial institutions.

Nationals in Iraq Advised To Contact Embassy

BK1912131090 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Bangladesh has advised its nationals, who are still in Kuwait and Iraq, to contact its embassy in Baghdad immediately for necessary advice and asssitance, if they decide to leave the area during the next few days. A foreign office spokesman said in Dhaka Wednesday [19 December] the advice has been given in view of the expected deterioration of the Gulf crisis as the 15 January deadline given by the UN [sentence as heard].

Portfolios of Two Advisers Allocated

BK1912161690 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Portfolios of two advisers have been allocated: Qazi Fazlur Rahman—Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control; Professor Yeazuddin Ahmed—Cultural Affairs and Food.

Mr. Alamgir M.A. Kabir has been removed from the charge of Cultural Affairs Ministry.

India

7 Killed in Punjab; Arms, Ammunition Seized

BK2012041290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] In Punjab, five militants and two security force personnel have been killed and eight security force personnel injured in separate incidents since last evening. A large quantity of arms and ammunition have been recovered.

Court Stays Proceedings in Bofors Case

BK2012090490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] The Supreme Court today stayed the proceedings in the Bofors case going on in the Delhi High Court. A division bench comprising the chief justice, Mr. Justice Ranganath Mishra, and Mr. Justice P.B. Samant, also stayed timings of Justice M.K. Chawla, regarding taking suo moto action in the Bofors case. The court fixed the 10th of January next year as date of hearing and also issued notices to the union government, CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation], and others.

Iran

Velayati Ends Talks in Sweden, Departs

LD1912183890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] The basis for industrial and economic cooperation between Iran and Sweden were discussed in a

meeting between Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati and the Swedish industry and energy minister, Mr. Rune Molin, in Stockholm today.

According to the Central News Unit, the two sides discussed the issue of organizing the first joint commission for economic cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Sweden, and the necessary agreements on this matter were reached.

Mr. Velayati, who led a delegation on a 24-hour official visit to Sweden, left Stockholm for Tehran this morning.

Peaceful Gulf Solution 'Imperative'

NC2012070890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati, who headed a political delegation which visited four southern Persian Gulf littoral states and Sweden, returned to Tehran last night.

In an interview with our correspondent, Mr. Velayati described the outcome of this trip as positive and said: In view of the current situation, the talks with officials in Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates, which are all members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [PGCC], were especially sensitive.

Pointing to the Islamic Republic's pivotal role in the region and to the need for constant consultations among the Persian Gulf countries, he stated: This trip followed the joint session of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the four PGCC members in New York. At the meetings that took place during this trip, it was decided to hold another joint session on the same level in the near future. He added: This visit came on the eve of the PGCC summit, and so it is particularly important that we inform these countries of the Islamic Republic of Iran's views.

Our foreign minister also reiterated the Islamic Republic of Iran's stand on the regional crisis. Describing the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf as unjustifiable, he said that the need for a peaceful solution to the crisis by the regional countries was imperative.

Mr. Velayati added that his visit to Sweden came within the framework of expanding bilateral relations and exchanging information on the latest developments in the Persian Gulf and the situation in Europe, particularly northern Europe. He said: A joint Iranian-Swedish committee is to be formed in Tehran soon.

UN Envoy Reports Arrest of Food Smugglers

LD2012084190 Tehran IRNA in English 0636 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, Dec. 20, IRNA—Iran's U.N. envoy Kamal Kharrazi said in a report to the United Nations Wednesday [19 December] that between the date of issue of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 661 against Iraq and November 23 Iranian law enforcement authorities had arrested 430 persons on charges of attempted smuggling of food to Iraq. The arrests had been made, according to the Iranian envoy here, with respect to the U.N. Security Council Resolution 661 which recommends sanctions against Iraq in the wake of its invasion of Kuwait last August. Earlier on the Iranian Government had assured the U.N. that it would observe the economic sanctions against Iraq. The letter to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar was published as a Security Council document Wednesday.

Fifth Stage of Victory-1 Maneuvers Successful

LD1912132890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] The fifth stage of the Victory-1 joint exercises ended successfully with the launch of search and rescue operations as well as tactical moves on the blue waters of the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, the strategic strait of Hormuz, and the northern zone of the Indian Ocean.

In that stage of the maneuver, the Navy and Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces as well as the Navy of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] took part. The operational forces spread out according to tasks assigned to them by the field command headquarters. They operated as the forces of our own side and as forces of the hypothetical enemy.

After discovering the position of the naval units of the assumed enemy, our forces used destroyers and frigates to direct heavy fire. Eventually they destroyed them. Then they identified the floating objects which were hit and mounted rescue operations. Damaged units together with all personnel were transferred to safe places.

The Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces and the Navy of the IRGC mounted a joint operation of shore-to-sea missile launches. This was to promote readiness in safeguarding the Persian Gulf and the strategic Hormuz Strait. In that operation, the forces involved first discovered the objectives of the hypothetical enemy, and then embarked on the use of the most advanced electronics warfare systems.

I must add that the search and rescue operations and the tactical phase of the Victory-1 maneuver is still continuing in the blue waters of the Persian Gulf, the Sea of Oman, and the northern zone of the Indian Ocean.

Commentary on Maneuvers

LD1912135790 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1108 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The six-phase "Victory-1" maneuvers began last Saturday in the Persian Gulf waters with extensive participation by air and sea units of the Army and Guards Corps. Yesterday evening the maneuvers entered a tactical phase by extending to the Sea of Oman. These

maneuvers, staged in an area of 30,000 square miles, are the second extensive naval maneuvers this year and the first such maneuvers since the Kuwaiti crisis and vast presence of the foreign forces in the Persian Gulf.

The Persian Gulf region is now particularly tense. More than one million troops are facing each other inside and outside Kuwait. Iraq, by dispatching more than 500,000 troops to maintain its hold on Kuwait, and the United States and its Arab and non-Arab allies, with the same number of Army personnel, have set up military camps in Saudi Arabia and other countries of the region under the pretext of confronting the Iraqi aggression; and they continue to strengthen their navies, air forces and ground forces. The Islamic Republic of Iran, which has the longest coastlines in the Persian Gulf and a superior navy among the regional countries, deems it necessary to maintain its traditional superiority, better equipped and more efficient than before, in order to safeguard the security of the country and interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

At the start of the crisis, it condemned the occupation of Kuwait and declared its opposition to the presence of the foreign forces in the Persian Gulf. It has also warned about the danger that the enemies of the Islamic revolution, under the guise of confronting the Iraqi aggression, might create against the Muslim people of the region. In the opinion of the military and political experts, the Islamic Republic of Iran's strategic position in the Persian Gulf region plays a key role in solving any disorder in the region; and for this purpose the role that our country's naval forces can play is more prominent, thanks to the experience gained during the eight years of the imposed war. A war at sea depends mainly on the use of sophisticated weapons; and our naval forces—the Army or the Guards Corps—possess the most advanced weapons and are armed with faith in justice and highly moral selflessness and martyrdom-seeking, the epic of which amazed the world in the course of the Wal-Fajr-8 operations. Our Navy personnel are also highly qualified and have combined efficiency with commitment.

In addition to the unstable situation and uncertainty on the future of events in the region, the Islamic Republic of Iran's location in relation to the strategic waters of the Hormuz Strait makes it more necessary to maintain readiness of our country's naval forces. The state authorities have always stressed the importance of increasing the country's military might, defense capabilities and maintaining alertness and readiness particularly among the courageous personnel of our Navy, which play a key role in defending the country's waters. One could, therefore, understand the value that the authorities and particularly the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution attach to the readiness and unity of command in the country's naval forces.

Naval Commander's Assessment

LD1912194490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Excerpts] During on the fifth stage of Victory-1 maneuvers for bringing about preparedness and greater defense of the Persian Gulf and the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the joint operations of shore-to-sea missile units were carried out by the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. [passage omitted]

Commodore Shamkhani, the commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who together with a number of commanders of the naval force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran was present in the area of the maneuvers to guide the different stages, described the special features of the maneuvers in an interview with the correspondent sent by the Central News Unit, Persian Gulf center. He said: Due to the diversity of naval, air, and ground units present, especially the large number of MiG-29 aircraft, this maneuver has been the most tactical maneuver carried out during the past few years, especially in view of the presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf.

In continuation of his remarks, the commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran described as successful the various stages of the joint Victory-1 maneuvers, which have been carried out for the first time under the command of Khatam-1 base in the naval borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran to demonstrate the strength and preparedness of the navy of the country for confronting any situation in the region. He said:

[Begin Shamkhani recording] Unity has always been one of the indivisible principles announced by the late leader of the revolution, as well as the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i. On this basis, thanks be to God, today in Khatam-1 base, which is the base that organizes the Armed Forces and the Guards Corps in the waters of the naval borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, we have reached the present point, and from the operational point of view complete unity exists. We hope that within the context of the wishes of the esteemed commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, both the Armed Forces and the [Revolution Guards] Corps can, without the slightest delay and waiting, carry out whatever are the wishes of the esteemed commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces. Up to the present moment, thanks be to God, within the context of those instructions and his emphatic orders we have not had any particular difficulty, and we will definitely have no difficulty in the future. [end recording]

Commentary Views Velayati's Visit to Turkey

NC1512134490 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] The meeting Foreign Minister Velayati of Iran held with President Turgut Ozal of Turkey in Ankara stressed the need to further improve bilateral relations between Iran and Turkey. The meeting was held at the presidential palace in Ankara on Wednesday afternoon. President Ozal recalled his last visit to Tehran and said he hoped that Foreign Minister Velayati's talks with the Turkish officials would produce positive results in improving the relations between the two countries.

Referring to his talks with Foreign Minister Alptemocin, Velayati said that bilateral relations and matters related to the Persian Gulf crisis were discussed.

Foreign Minister Velayati also held talks with Turksih Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut yesterday afternoon. He met with Minister of State Mehmet Kececiler, who is responsible for Turkey's oil and economic affairs, this morning. His meeting with Kececiler stressed the need to establish multifaceted cooperation between the two countries. Velayati also held talks with the speaker of the Turkish National Assembly on bilateral relations and the Persian Gulf crisis. In a statement to journalists, the speaker of the Turkish National Assembly said that Velayati's talks with the Turkish officials on bilateral relations and the Persian Gulf crisis will further improve the relations between Turkey and Iran. For his part, Velayati noted the common views of the two countries on the Persian Gulf crisis and stressed the importance of cooperation between Iran and Turkey in settling the Persian Gulf crisis as quickly as possible. Velayati called for the restoration of Kuwait's independence and reiterated Iran's view that the foreign forces must withdraw from the region.

Paper Comments on Islamic Palestine Conference

NC1912122790 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Dec 90 pp 1, 12

[From the "Weekly Political Analysis" column: "The Whetstone of the Struggle of the Palestinian Nation"]

[Excerpts] As the grand Islamic Palestinian uprising entered its fourth year, Islamic Iran convened the first "Islamic Conference on Palestine" as an expression of its support for the oppressed Palestinian nation. [passage omitted]

Today everyone recognizes the intifadah as the whetstone of the struggle of the Palestinian people and as the weak spot of the enemy. It is for this reason that Israel, impotent in the face of the intifadah, is feeling immense strain.

Israel is faced with a movement it does not understand. It does not know who is confronting it and realizes with bitterness that those Palestinian organizations it had managed to infiltrate so deeply play not even the smallest role in this fervent movement. [passage omitted]

The most important point about the intifadah is the shattering of barriers by the Palestinians themselves through their own fortitude. They relinquished all hopes of succor from those who claimed to support them and entered the arena themselves.

This struggle can never be quelled. These stubborn flames will not be extinguished until a decisive outcome is achieved. When a nation itself becomes the point of the arrow and when an uprising becomes a popular one, then victory is assured as long as vigilance is maintained and plotters and infiltrators are prevented from thwarting its course. [passage omitted]

Paper Comments on U.S. Policy on Gulf

NC1412173090 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 2 Dec 90

[H. Rahmatollahi commentary: "America—a Peace-Seeking Gesture and Military Intentions"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush's proposal that the Iraqi leadership send Tariq 'Aziz to Washington as its special envoy and that it receive James Baker in Baghdad has added a new dimension to the crisis in the Persian Gulf stemming from Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. The most important factor here is the growing complexity and ambiguity of the crisis. America's motives in launching this "peace offensive" should be sought within the framework of the strategy of "controlling crises," a strategy Washington uses to assess all aspects of a situation, including its and its rival's objectives, needs, and potentials. In this way, it tries to steer regional and international developments in a direction that will enable it to emerge ultimately as the victor.

It is on the basis of these criteria that America uses whatever levers and tools are most appropriate for each individual crisis. In Grenada, it was brute force that had the final say. In Panama, there was imperialist propaganda which practically threw Noriega from the political scene. This was followed by a news blackout during which the American Army used ultramodern weapons to occupy that country and to take Noriega to the United States for trial. Months later, mass graves were found which revealed the pitiless massacres perpetrated by the American soldiers. The same vile and complicated American tactics were used in Nicaragua, Iran, Cuba, Vietnam, and dozens of other places. As for the Persian Gulf crisis, at the same time that it began pulling economic and legal levers, such as acting on the basis of UN Security Council resolutions, America also hastily sent its troops to the scene—although it was not the only one to do so. The consensus that emerged among most countries over condemning the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait gave the Americans a golden opportunity to try to fulfill their militaristic and hegemonistic ambitions under the general label of "opposition to aggression and

occupation" and under a suitable Arab and international mask—a regional mask provided for it by Turkey and some Arab leaders, and an international mask provided for it by the explicit support expressed by Britain and most Eastern and Western countries, with the exception of China, Cuba, and a few others. Thus the conclusion that can be drawn is that America's stand on the recent crisis in the Persian Gulf cannot be studied outside the context of the strategy of "controlling crises." Under this scenario, America began with an all-embracing international embargo against Iraq which was coupled with extensive propaganda against the occupation of Kuwait, thus laying the necessary foundations to undermine Iraq's military and economic strength. Meanwhile, with the approval of the UN Security Council resolution on "resort to force" against the occupation of Kuwait, America has been given the green light to start military operations against Iraq. At this point, the undermining of Iraq's military strength to the point where it no longer is considered by the Zionist regime and its mentors in America as the number one danger in the region should be taken into consideration. In view of all this, Bush's recent "peace offensive" can be studied from two aspects:

A. The defensive aspect:

According to this perspective, a military action against Iraq creates various problems for America. The danger of an Iraqi missile or chemical attack on occupied Palestine (something which occupied Palestine will be unable to defend itself against adequately); the spread of fighting to Saudi territory and to the regional oil wells (something that could create a serious economic and social crisis around the world as winter approaches); and, finally, the possibility that America and its allies will be unable to carry out a confrontation with the Iraqi ground forces are some of the factors that have shaken America's faith in the expediency of a military operation. Thus, America is trying to reinforce its military presence in the region at the same time that it accepts other initiatives that would solve the crisis to its benefit. Morever, the consequence of any war in the region will be the awakening of a feeling of pan-Arabism in its positive form—that is, confrontation with a colonialist power—and will ultimately lead to a reaction by the world's Muslim masses to any American military attack. This will not only threaten the existence of the Zionist regime and the American presence in the region, but will also place the pro-Washington regimes squarely on the brink of collapse.

B. The offensive aspect of America's recent policy:

Those who support this view believe that America is now using the all-embracing embargo against Iraq to undermine the latter's military and economic strength; that it is trying also to gain legal backing, with the help of the UN Security Council resolution, to carry out a military attack on Iraq; and that it is seeking to win over European and American public opinion by entering the scene with a peace-seeking gesture, confident that Iraq will not give in to Washington's request (for unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait without granting the aggressor any concessions) so that it can thus create a climate in which world public opinion would support any military attempt on any level against Iraq. The most important point made by those who support this view is that even on the eve of the approval of the resolution on "resort to force" against Iraq, America rejected Iraq's repeated calls for talks but that now, after the resolution was approved, it has expressed its readiness for negotiations.

Iraq has Washington's proposal for talks but has stressed that these talks should also include other Middle East problems, particularly the Palestine problem. In fact, Baghdad is trying to link other issues to this crisis and thus expand the front against America, so that it will have the necessary moral support in the region should the talks fail. In other words, Iraq wants to win in these talks. If the talks fail, however, this will be tantamount to the failure of Iraq's request to link the Middle East problems. In this case, it will not be Iraq which will have led the talks to failure, but America and the Zionists because of their unwillingness to discuss the Palestine problem. This situation will be to Iraq's benefit too. Finally, Iraq and America have, to suit their own objectives, put forward various intiatives, either directly or indirectly; and whatever these initiatives may be, they are firm and unalterable points.

"The occupation of Kuwaiti territory by Iraq is an unforgivable act and should be ended as soon as possible. America has not prepared itself to end the occupation, but instead to stabilize its future presence in the region, and its ultimate objective is to dominate the regional countries, to control oil, and—finally—to extend material and overt support for the continued existence of the Zionist regime." [quotation unattributed]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Current Issues

LD1812203290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1645 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Answers by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to written questions submitted by group of seminarians and students at meeting with in Tehran on 18 December; questions and answers read by Hashemi-Rafsanjani—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] What is your view on the two existing trends? Is there a way to unite the factions to produce one front?

[Answer] The answer to this question is surely in the speech that I made. Two factions, 10 factions—you will not find a single country—[changes thought] there are different tastes, and there is nothing wrong with that. If we all accept the principle of the vice regency of the jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih] then there be no problem. We may reach a point, such as during elections, when one person supports one candidate and another person supports a different candidate, and there is no real difference if this or that gentleman becomes a representative of the Majles. The people are not going to vote for

anyone who is bad, when the other is good, the other is better. This may be true in presidential elections or even in the elections that you hold for your student representatives or similar activities. What is important is that the principle must be correct, do not worry about the rest.

In any case, the point that I stress is that you must not allow anything accept the principle of the vice regency of the jurisconsult to be considered holy in the universities.

[Question] If a war really starts in the Persian Gulf, what would be Iran's position? Would we be content to see the brother from Islamic countries be killed by infidels? [passage omitted]

[Answer] As regards Iraq, of course, we are very strongly opposed to the Iraqis being crushed by the Americans. However, the responsibility for such a thing rests with the Iraqi regime. The Iraqi regime did something very bad. The fact that it went and swallowed up another country, regardless of the nature of that country, as regards the principle of the matter, it has been very ugly. It is also unacceptable to us. Imagine that the Iraqis who have access to the Persian Gulf only from one corner of it come and occupy all the southern shores of the Persian Gulf. As we have heard, they intended even to go to the [United Arab] Emirates and such places. I do not know whether they wanted to go there or not. A country which starts a war so easily, which launches an aggression so easily; they did this to us; they did this to their neighbor which now they admit to us; paid them $14 billion during the war, which had placed its ports and everything at their disposal. What kind of security can we have in the Persian Gulf in the future, if such a thing happens? The fault is with Iraq, which has carried out the aggression.

Our solution is that Iraq should unconditionally withdraw back to Iraq. It should not raise any conditions. On the contrary it should be answerable for the evil things that it has committed. We would be very unhappy if such a thing happens in this way, and the Americans start a war and strike Iraq, and the Iraqis are harmed. We are making every effort at the moment to ensure that this will not happen. All these visits which are carried out by our minister of foreign affairs who is running this way and that way, all the guests who are regularly coming and going, the messages which I am sending, all of these are directed toward this end: that we wish to prevent the war. However, we do not have a free hand, because as regards the Americans we do not even talk to them and even if we do, it may produce the opposite effect. The Iraqis are not listening to us either. No matter how many messages we send them, they are continuing their own work. We hope, we beseech God, we pray that this war will not take place. But if it does take place, they [the Iraqis] themselves are responsible for it. We will perform our duty, as we said. [passage omitted]

[Question] Please clearly express your views about the recent elections of the [Assembly of] Experts. In your view is there not a movement toward eliminating the forces following the line of the imam? The students are very worried about the weakening of the line of the imam. What guarantees can you provide the students regards this matter?

[Answer] As some people have so often made such remarks from various podiums, some people are gradually believing it. They have said it, and they are gradually believing it themselves too. What center in this country can be more committed and closer to the line of the imam than the leader? Try to be fair when dealing with this matter. Among those who have been close to the imam, have we had anyone closer than our leader to the imam and to the line of the imam in this country? If there was anyone else, the imam would have confirmed him. The imam followed up the matter with anxiety until he concluded the matter with him. He [Khomeyni] knew who he [Khamene'i] was.

As regards the elections, the members of the Council of Guardians, on the basis of the law which was at their disposal, did not regard certain individuals as possessing the necessary qualities. Should the line of the imam be limited to the Assembly of Experts? Cannot one serve in another position? What kind of talk is this? Those who are there [members of the Assembly of Experts], are they not following the line of the imam? Most of those who have been elected are those who were elected in the imam's time. For instance, if there are 80 members, 70 of them had been elected before. I do not know the exact numbers, I am using approximate numbers. Why did we not regard them yesterday as being outside the line of the imam, and today we regard them as outside the line of the imam? The harm which is done by saying such things is that those who are not well informed get worried, lose heart, and become inactive. Some people become indifferent. Such remarks are harmful.

They [members of the Council of Guardians] had a law in their hands. They implemented it. I am also sorry regarding some of the gentlemen who did not forward. [sentence as heard] Personally, I vouch for many of the gentlemen who did not come forward. If I can appoint them to a position, I will do so, and I regard them as eligible individuals. However, I have no right to tell the Council of Guardians why they have made such an appraisal. They have performed their own duty. The same thing can happen in the Majles. Some individuals are elected to the Majles. The deputies do not vote for them, and their credentials are not approved; or during the elections they face certain difficulties and cannot come [to the Majles]. Or there are some differences in individual tastes. One person may drop his duty, another person may drop his director general, another person may drop someone who is the head of a department. They cannot agree with one another. We should not conclude that this means the elimination of those who are following the line of the imam.

You should not be worried at all. If today you know anyone in this country closer to the line of the imam than our illustrious leader, introduce him to us. He is supervising all these issues. How would he allow such a thing?

Personally, I have spent all my life with the imam, ever since I got to know him. You know that in this country there was no one closer to the imam, or more familiar than me with the thoughts of the imam, with the path of the imam, who else are you looking for to do so? However, occasionally certain things may happen which we wish would not happen; but in a big society such things happen and we are not pleased with them either. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Bush Proposal, Iraqi Response

NC1812121590 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 3 Dec 90 p 2

[Abolqasem Qasemzadeh commentary: "George Bush's Proposals and Saddam's Concurrence"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush's proposal to send his secretary of state to Baghdad and to invite Tariq 'Aziz and the foreign ministers of regional Arab states to meet with him in the White House in early December is a fresh maneuver in the current crisis that comes after the approval of the resolution that authorizes war. Iraq has accepted the proposal on the condition that the talks include Palestine, but George Bush stated in the short speech that accompanied the announcement of his proposal: "There will be no talks which will give concessions to Iraq. I have been told that Saddam Husayn has still not taken our military presence seriously. I will send James Baker to Baghdad to look Saddam in the eye and to remind him of our seriousness and of the date set by the resolution." Iraq's maneuver in accepting the U.S. President's proposal on the condition that the talks include Palestine is a gesture which will go over well in Arab countries, especially among the people, and Saddam is extremely interested in the extent of his popularity these days. Following this the possibility has emerged that the 40 days that remain until 15 January will be filled with proposals for a peaceful solution of the crisis. However, following the approval of the 12th resolution by the Security Council authorizing the use of all means necessary, including military force, after 15 January to drive Iraq out of Kuwait, Saddam seized the initiative. In one way or another, until that date all eyes will be turned toward Baghdad to see what decision it will make. After the resolution was passed, Iraq immediately announced that anti-American demonstrations would take place in front of the American Embassy in Baghdad. After George Bush made his proposal, however, it changed the venue of the demonstrations.

With his new proposal George Bush—who is facing opposition from the American people, the House of Represenatives, and the Senate—was able to seize the initiative from Saddam for the period until January 15. Meanwhile, American statesmen are now propounding two different views on the Persian Gulf crisis. One view, which was officially propounded by Henry Kissinger before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and which is shared by his President and the administration, is that the occupation of Kuwait is similar to the Nazi aggression in World War II and to Hitler's expansionism and that Saddam is the present-day Hitler. Kissinger says that if weakness is shown at this stage of the confrontation against the occupation of Kuwait, the future of the region, and especially the security of small nations will be threatened. Furthermore, in view of the fact that Iraq may have a "nuclear potential," Saddam's military machine should be destroyed, the legal government in Kuwait restored, and Saddam pushed toward his downfall. Many proposals are made to back this view. Among these proposals are calls for a "limited war" and for a direct U.S. military presence in the region instead of reliance on the obsolete approach of a regional gendarme. Those who support this view consider George Bush's proposal to send his secretary of state to Baghdad as a last effort to find a peaceful solution before 15 January. After this day they believe that a military solution will be the only means by which Saddam can be thrown out of Kuwait.

The second view, which is supported by the Democrats and by some Republicans who support George Bush—among whom we see Reagan's political adviser and his speechwriter—is that first of all Saddam's withdrawal from Kuwait is not worth deploying so many troops, preparing for war, and suffering the losses a war would entail and that it is wrong to compare Saddam to Hitler and Kuwait to Europe during World War II. Had it held talks with Saddam, America could have protected its interests and maintained the balance of security even with Kuwait in Saddam's hands. Now that the situation has reached this point, the crisis should not be pushed toward an extensive war; if more time is given to the economic and political sanctions and more serious steps are taken, these sanctions will force Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait without the need for war. Even though those who support this view support George Bush's recent proposal and consider it a step toward a peaceful settlement of the crisis, nevertheless they believe that this decision was hasty and that the conditions put forward by Saddam for the talks and for other issues—namely the Palestinian problem and Lebanon—will once again give him the initiative and practically grant him another brief opportunity to throw the ball into his rival's court. Moreover, after this proposal other European countries—which had rejected any kind of talks with Saddam because of the stands by George Bush and former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher—will come forward now and will send their foreign ministers to Baghdad too, especially as Japan, France, and Germany do not support a war. The conflict between these two views continues in the West's press and mass media.

At any rate, we are now on the eve of the new Christian year and will be living in an atmosphere created by the approval of the Security Council resolution known as a "war permit" until 15 January. Both George Bush and Saddam Husayn have opened a new political-propaganda campaign directed at their respective audiences. The U.S. President is portrayed in cartoons in many newspapers as a warmonger who is beating on a

war drum while repeating "I want peace. I want peace, not war." George Bush proposes to send his secretary of state to Baghdad in order to quell the wave of opposition inside America and also to rectify his image as a warmonger, even though he will have the war permit in his hands after 15 January. By accepting the proposal and by stating that discussions should also be held on Israel and Palestine and on the Lebanese crisis, Saddam is trying to portray himself as an Arab hero so that he will be regarded as another Nasir by public opinion.

What is quite clear is that the outcome of this political game is still not known, even though after 15 January none of the sides will have any room to play or to resort to political-propaganda maneuvers. The critical situation has created emergency conditions in the region under which its people are suffering losses every day. A glance at the economic plunder that is taking place at this juncture shows how much the West is gaining from this political smokescreen.

Saudi Arabia is exporting more than 10 million barrels of oil a day, twice the ceiling set for it by OPEC. Its money is being directly spent to support the West's military presence and on the current emergency situation. It is under such conditions that the Saudis donated $4 billion this week to the Soviet Union for its vote in the Security Council. The rising oil prices and the increased profits made by the multinational oil companies under these conditions have become the topics of discussion in the world's oil bulletins and together with this, the frenzied sale of arms to regional countries continues without regard for whose turn it is. Things have reached such a point that sand from British beaches has been sold to the Saudis for making sand bags that are needed for the trenches. The freezing of Kuwait's assets in all Western banks is bringing in astronomic profits... This is only part of the economic plunder going on parallel with the military aggression. At any rate, until diplomatic shuttles will continue until 15 January, and from then on the chances for war or peace will be assessed within the context of the interests listed above, even though the U.S. President stated in the speech announcing his proposal that the date set by the Security Council will be the day on which the red light for war will be switched on.

Paper Warns of Consequences of U.S.-Iraqi 'Deal'

NC1812110390 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Dec 90 pp 1, 12

[Mohammad Sarafraz editorial: "The Persian Gulf Crisis After Resolution 678"]

[Text] With the approval of the Security Council's 12th resolution against Iraq, the Persian Gulf crisis entered a new phase which we will discuss below.

1. Before Resolution 678 was approved, America—which had set 15 January as the deadline for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait—insisted that it would not hold direct talks with Iraq. After the resolution was approved, however, it suddenly agreed to Iraq's proposal and announced that high-ranking officials of the two countries would hold talks.

In an apparent effort to remove any fears of any kind of "behind-the-scenes deal," America proposed that the ambassadors of the permanent Security Council members also be present during the talks.

What America is trying to do is to use "threats" and, perhaps even more, "enticements" to show that the international alliance against Iraq is "firm."

So far considerable sums have been paid (through Saudi Arabia or the West) to gain the support of countries like the Soviet Union, China, Turkey, Syria, and Egypt. The Soviet Union was promised food aid from the West and financial assistance from Saudi Arabia—before the approval of the Security Council resolution. However, it prefers financial aid to the food aid from the West. China was unable to gain the necessary aid and America's promises did not satisfy the Beijing government. Some of Turkey's debts to the West were canceled and it has also received some grants. As for Syria, America agreed to the removal of Michel 'Awn so that Syria could extend its domination over Lebanon. In the case of Egypt, America, and Saudi Arabia annnounced that its multibillion-dollar debts would be forgiven. Washington believes that the return to be gained from all these expenditures will be immense.

As the "desire for concessions" of the countries linked with the crisis cannot be fulfilled easily, it seems that time will work against the "international alliance" and will make it more fragile. As an example we can point to the Security Council's latest resolution on Iraq for which only 12 countries voted in favor with China abstaining. The Chinese foreign minister was the only foreign minister who visited Iraq during the four-month crisis.

2. The reasons behind the proposal for direct talks between America and Iraq can be summed up in a few points:

A. Preserving the existing international alliance behind America and harnessing public opinion in the West:

With the passage of time in the Persian Gulf crisis, oppposition to America's warmongering policy has grown among other governments and among the American people and influential groups.

To control this opposition, America has had to resort to a diplomatic tactic in a bid to present a peace-seeking face.

B. Preventing an Iraqi attack:

The Security Council's recent resolution is considered a kind of declaration of war against Iraq—something which could make Iraq think of a "deterrent defense." Thus, the approval of Resolution 678 created the possibility of an Iraqi attack on the forces deployed in Saudi Arabia. To prevent such a move, America resorted to a diplomatic maneuver so that it would both deprive Iraq

of a pretext for attack and have time to prepare the necessary forces and facilities for a "victorious operation" by the middle of the next Christian month.

C. Both America and Iraq are terrified of the consequences of an extensive military confrontation:

From America's point of view, an extensive military confrontation will destabilize the Middle East, promote anti-American sentiment in the region, increase Iran's military might, and replace a dependent regime in Iraq with an unknown quantity.

Therefore, the possibility of a behind-the-scenes compromise and deal between Iraq and America remains. It seems unlikely, however, that the deal will include the handing over of part of Kuwaiti territory to Iraq because this would be tantamount to world retreat before Iraq.

Thus, such a deal should be carried out in secret. In return for a withdrawal from Kuwait, considerable financial assistance will be extended to Iraq.

The outcome of such a deal will be that America will attempt to create a regional security system on the pretext of regional instability and insecurity and the possibility of a renewed Iraqi threat, thus entrenching its military presence in the Persian Gulf littoral states. As a result, it will control the region's oil exports and will make the countries of the world pay tribute to it. If the regional and European countries are not careful, it is quite possible such a deal will materialize. Once this deal is concluded, the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms will be harmed because their monarchies will not be able to last and America will inevitably have to push the regimes here toward "guided democracy."

The European countries will also lose because they will have to pay tribute to America to ensure supplies of oil!

The world must prevent this deal from materializing because if it does, the strategic Persian Gulf area will be faced with two "tension-creating" sources, each of which will do its best to blackmail countries and to chart an unstable and unclear future for the region.

Challenge of Revolution Values to U.S. Noted

NC1812103090 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Dec 90 p 24

[From the "Political Commentary" column by Gholamreza Eslami: "The Islamic Revolution and the Superpower Tale of America"]

[Excerpts] In today's world, the words "power and superpower" are used to describe countries with three characteristics: superior military weaponry, superior economic might, and extensive political influence. [passage omitted]

Actually, the Soviet Union was a superpower in the postwar years not because it meet these three criteria for a superpower, but because it stood shoulder-to-shoulder with America in the rivalry for "the capability to achieve mass destruction."

In the context of this rivalry, America was able to use its economic might and to expand its political influence, thus giving a comprehensive and indubitable meaning to the word superpower. For almost half a century, it presided over a world structure which was able to move from the complicated mechanism of hegemony to a mechanism of dominating a large part of the world's vital and strategic resources. At the same time, the eastern superpower, despite its parallel steps in the military field, has had to surrender its superpower title because of its economic decline and because of the transient impact of its policies.

America's role as superpower will also end. How will this come about and who will replace it?

As its superpower status fades away amid the end of the cold war, the Soviet Union is in the process of adopting Western economic and political structures. Thus it can present no serious challenge.

For about half a century now, Britain has been moving in lockstep with American policies. France too, despite its facade of antagonism and the fact that it was one of the most important players in supporting collective European interests in conflicts with America, seems unlikely to become a serious and major opponent to the current world superpower even in view of its role in the future developments of a united Europe. This is because it is involved in the traditional rivalry with Britain for dominance in Europe and also because its economic, military, and political structure is tightly linked with superpower intentions and objectives. Even more important, Europe's economic life is linked with continued domination over the world's vital resources, especially Middle East oil.

Thus, a cursory glance shows that America is the only superpower that still has the necessary resources to preserve the stability and continuation of the West's domination. Moreover, recent developments in the Persian Gulf have clearly shown that without the presence and leadership of America, Europe is incapable of solving conflicts that threaten the West's interests. Japan too, with its chimerical wishes and despite its economic might, does not appear to be a serious threat to America. This is because it not only lacks the necessary and decisive unanimity which is needed in world calculations, but also because it is a link in the West's economic chain and is also dependent on America's hegemonistic policies. The stand adopted by the Japanese leaders throughout the current crisis has clearly shown that they too fully support the American military presence near the Persian Gulf's oil resources. This is why the West is moving toward a basic concordance, despite artificial conflicts, and why the West will stand beside America and pay any price necessary should war break out.

Thus, the end of the tale of America's invincibility should be sought elsewhere, in a place governed by neither the militarism nor the materialism that rule the world. It should be sought in the strength of a policy that is based on faith and ideological beliefs; it should be sought in the Islamic Revolution which derives its strength from the awakening of suppressed nations. It is because of these intangible attributes of superpowerhood that the Islamic Revolution has, despite the fact that it lacks all three necessary factors on a world scale, proven in practice that it is invincible in the fight against arrogance. It is no exaggeration to say that the last decade of the current century can turn into a scene of conflict against those trends that move against culture and values. This conflict which will have the superpower materialistic structure on one side and a phenomenon known as the Islamic Revolution on the other.

This can happen if we continue to base our policy on our religion and if we do not let the substance from which our revolution is made be undermined by the West's technological offensive. In short, the ideological values that have emerged from the revolution should not be drowned in the eddy of misleading temptations and justifications; they should be continued and elevated.

Guardians Approve Three Bills, Reject One

LD1912215190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The Council of Guardians met today. In its meeting the Council explored the urgent two-tier bill on the articles of association of the Sistan Development Organization—which was approved by the Majles in a session in which members of the Council of Guardians were also present. It also explored the bill on the punishment of those who disrupt the country's economic system—the bill which was amended by the Council and returned for reapproval by the Majles. It also explored the bill on the membership of the Majles in the Interparliamentary Union, a bill which was returned to the Majles following amendments by the Council and reapproval by the Majles. All the three bills were found not to contradict the principles of religion and the articles of the Constitution.

At the same meeting also the bill on the establishment of the messengers of health was discussed. The Council announced its view as follows: 1, the application of Clause 2 and Note 1 was found to contradict Clause 147 of the Constitution because it may include cases which may impair the combat preparedness of the Army. [passage omitted]

Details of Allotted Budget Expenditure Given

LD1912171490 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 19 IRNA—The foreign exchange revenues predicted in the budget for the fiscal year 1370 (March 1991-March 1992) has increased to about dlrs. 23 bn [billion], half of which would be spent on industry, oil and gas sectors.

The budget bill presented to the Majlis by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani predicts government revenues from oil and gas exports at dlrs. 18.98 bn and from non-oil exports at dlrs. 3.15 bn next year.

According to the experts working on the bill in the Majlis, of the said amount oil exports would be dlrs. 16.313 bn, gas exports dlrs. 267m, oil exports for the imports of oil products dlrs. 1.874m, exports of oil derivatives dlrs. 526m, services dlrs. 400m, and revenues of the capital account receipts dlrs. 400m.

The non-oil exports will include agricultural products worth dlrs. 604m, industrial products worth dlrs. 1.44 bn, carpets worth dlrs. 823m, mineral products worth dlrs. 260m, and pharmaceutical products worth dlrs. 23m.

Deputy of Arak in the Majlis and member of the Energy Committee Hassan al-Husayni said the foreign exchange budget has given priority to the projects to be completed by the end of this year (March 20, 1991).

He said dlrs. 299m has been allocated for water resources, which is mainly spent on dam building. "In the field of electricity we are 1,500 megawatts behind the anticipated programme, and in the wake of the population growth, we will need an additional 1,500 megawatt during the first five-year economic plan."

A total of dlrs. 1,355 bn has been predicted for the electricity sector in the budget for the next year.

Al-Husayni referring to the satellite project in the telecommunication sector said 'Zoreh' satellite will certainly be used as per the Majlis approval, but the question is now whether the satellite should be chartered or purchased.

The deputy however said that a total of dlrs. 112m and dlrs. 452m have been predicted for the atomic energy and telecommunication sectors respectively.

The amount of exchange allocated to each sector according to the priorities are as follows:

Oil and oil derivatives dlrs. 5.274 billion, industrial production sector dlrs. 5.138 bn, Commerce Ministry for the imports of basic goods dlrs. 3.883 bn, defence, disciplinary, security and information sector dlrs. 1,900 bn, electricity dlrs. 1.355 bn, agriculture and natural resources dlrs. 1.298 bn, road and transport dlrs. 1.150 bn.

Dlrs. 300m has been allocated for the reconstruction of the earthquake-stricken areas, and dlrs. 300m has been allocated to the industry and heavy industry ministries as revolving fund.

The amounts allocated for the other sectors are:

Mines dlrs. 635m, gas dlrs. 456m, housing dlrs. 70m, urban development dlrs. 150m, post and telecommunication dlrs. 452m, atomic energy dlrs. 112m, public education dlrs. 23m, vocational education dlrs. 30m, higher education dlrs. 130m, culture and art dlrs. 38m, health and treatment dlrs. 426m, welfare dlrs. 23m, foreign relations department dlrs. 80m, information and mass media dlrs. 170m, physical training dlrs. 12m, meteorology dlrs. 7m, tourism dlrs. 6m, environment protection dlrs. 1.3m, reconstruction dlrs. 231m, research dlrs. 93m, service imports dlrs. 800m, and at president's disposal dlrs. 250m.

A total of dlrs. 1,941,300,000 has also been foreseen in the budget for probably changes in the country's currency reserves.

Va'ezi Comments on Economic Talks With France

LD1812173290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] Mr. Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs, announced: Talks aimed at solving financial differences between Iran and France are not deadlocked; the next round of talks will be held in Tehran.

In an interview with our correspondent today, he referred to the successful visit of Foreign Minister Velayati to France, and to Iranian-French understanding in political, economic and cultural fields, especially with regard to the Persian Gulf crisis. He then said: Though in the first round of talks Iran and France did not arrive at a definite solution to the financial differences, one should not ignore other successes of the visit. Mr. Va'ezi added: Talks between Iran and France have not become deadlocked; one should not expect that the two countries' differences, lasting for 11 years, to be solved within two days. Referring to the fact that after the end of Mr. Velayati's visit, he [Va'ezi] had remained in France at the request of Mr. Mitterrand, president of the Republic of France, he said: In two days of talks with the French authorities we arrived at a new method. Henceforth, the two countries will talk only on single issues regarding their differences.

Mr. Va'ezi, noting the impact which the failure to solve the financial differences between Iran and France may have on the future political and economic relations of the two countries, said: During the past year much understanding has been achieved between Iran and France concerning economic cooperation, oil, gas, petrochemicals, and heavy industries. The sooner the financial differences are solved, the smoother the way for cooperation will be in these fields. He added: Within the next two weeks officials of the two countries will set a date for the next round of talks, which are to be held in Tehran. We hope France will show more flexibility in the forthcoming talks.

Council Backs Implementing Supplementary Budget

LD1812224390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] The Expediency Discernment Council met on Tuesday night under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Republic.

Following the instruction of the exalted leader [Khamene'i] to the Expediency Discernment Council to explore the problem of differences of views between the Council of Guardians and the Majles on the 1369 [21 March 1990-March 1991] Supplementary Budget Bill, the Council expressed the view that, in light of the need for the immediate implementation of the supplementary budget, and without expressing any opinion on the views of either the Majles or the Council of Guardians, the supplementary budget must be referred for implementation without delay.

USSR Caspian Sea Shipping Talks Held

LD1812180390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Dec 90

[Text] At a meeting held today [place not specified] between the USSR deputy minister of transport and shipping [as heard] and the head of the Ports and Shipping Organization of Iran, cooperation between Iran and the USSR in the field of shipping on the Caspian Sea were surveyed.

According to an IRNA report, the head of the Ports and Shipping Organization of Iran referred to the 19th Iranian-Soviet rotative conference on shipping to be held in Bandar Anzali. He said: Issues related to shipping on the Caspian Sea, and ways to expand the joint Iranian-Soviet shipping line merchant fleet will be surveyed at the conference.

Commission To Review Judiciary Reform

LD1712184490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Dec 90

[Text] During a joint session of the deputies and advisers of the head of the judiciary, it was decided to set up a special commision to investigate ways of changing the state judicial system. According to an IRNA report, in the course of this session, chaired by the head of the judiciary, Mr. Yazdi, the regulations on amnesty and pardoning offenders and prisoners were approved.

Pakistan

Head of Iranian Cultural Center Assassinated

NC2012063490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Mr. Sadeq Ganji, head of the Islamic Republic's Cultural House in Lahore, Pakistan was martyred when

he was attacked by several armed men yesterday as he was entering the city's International Hotel. The Central News Unit reports that Martyr Ganji, who had gone to the hotel to participate in a farewell ceremony organized by some Pakistani officials, was attacked upon entering the hotel by several armed men who are believed to be Wahhabi elements, and died in a Lahore hospital. One of the culprits was seized by people at the scene.

Following the martyrdom of Sadeq Ganji, the Pakistani ambassador to Iran was summoned at midnight last night by Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Sheykholeslam, who expressed the Islamic Republic's strong protest over the incident to the Pakistani Government. The Pakistani Government was asked to take steps to identify and punish the individuals who martyred the head of the Islamic Republic's Cultural House in Lahore.

The Central News Unit reports that Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif left for Lahore immediately after the crime so that he could personally follow up on the investigation into Mr. Sadeq Ganji's martyrdom. Meanwhile, the Pakistani deputy foreign minister visited the Islamic Republic's Embassy in Islamabad at midnight last night and expressed the Pakistani Government's condolences and deep concern over this crime.

Alleged Assassin Arrested

BK2012053290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0230 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] Director General of Iranian Cultural Center in Lahore Mr. Sadeq Ranji was shot dead by unknown armed assailant on Wednesday night. Another student of Engineering University Lahore who was accompanying Sadeq Ranji received injury. The injured has been admitted to a hospital. Sadeq Ranji was fired upon when he arrived at a hotel to attend a reception being hosted in his honor. A senior police official told newsmen that the assassin of Mr. Sadeq Ranji, who later made an attempt to commit suicide, has been held up. He was rushed to a hospital in critical condition where doctors are making efforts to save his life to get complete information of the case. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has expressed his deep grief at the cowardly assassination of the Iranian diplomat.

Reportage on Visit of Indian Foreign Secretary

Meets Sharif 19 Dec

BK1912160290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif stressed the need for solving all the issues, especially the Kashmir dispute, between Pakistan and India. Speaking to Indian Foreign Secretary Muchkund Dubey in Islamabad today, he recalled that during his recent talks with his Indian counterpart, they agreed to deal with these problems. The prime minister expressed deep distress and anguish over the heavy loss of life and property in the communal clashes in India.

The foreign secretary appreciated the guidance from the prime minister and briefed him about his country's stand on all the issues.

Muchkund Dubey was accompanied by Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan J.N. Dixit. Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shahryar Khan was also present during the meeting.

High-Level Talks Extended

BK1912160690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 19 Dec 90

[Text] The India-Pakistan foreign secretary level talks, which were to conclude today, have been extended by a day. Another round of talks was held in Islamabad today in which several issues relating to bilateral relations were discussed. India's foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, called on the Pakistan prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif. During the visit, Mr. Sharif conveyed his desire to leave behind the controversies and bitterness that marked the relations between the two countries and to move ahead in reducing tension and normalizing relations as quickly as possible. He said this is necessary so that both the countries can concentrate on the economic betterment of the two people.

Mr. Dubey conveyed the good wishes of the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, to Mr. Nawaz Sharif.

A brief round of talks is scheduled for tomorrow morning after which Mr. Dubey and his Pakistani counterpart Mr. Shahryar Khan will issues a joint press statement. The Indian delegation is due to return tomorrow afternoon.

Press Statement on Agreements

BK2012085890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Dec 90

[Text] India and Pakistan have decided to exchange the instruments of ratification on the agreement on prohibition of attacks on each other's nuclear installations and facilities next month. The agreement was signed between the two countries in December 1988 and subsequently ratified by those governments. This decision was announced in a joint press statement issued by the foreign secretaries of the two countries at the end of their three-day talks in Islamabad today. Both countries have also decided to hold the next meeting in New Delhi of their surveyor generals on the question of demarcation of the land boundary in Sir Creek [on Gujarat-Sind border] in early February next year. They have also agreed to resume discussions on the Wullar barrage issue thereafter.

AIR [All India Radio] Islamabad correspondent Suresh Chopra reports that another major decision arrived at during the talks is that the director generals of the military operations of both countries will keep in touch with each other on a weekly basis instead of the ad-hoc pattern that has been hitherto followed. It was also

agreed that the meetings of the various subcommissions will be resumed at an appropriate time. It has been decided that the next meeting of the two foreign secretaries will be held in New Delhi toward the end of February next year. This will be preceded by a meeting of experts to finalize the pending drafts of the agreements on advance notification of military exercises and maneuvers and agreement on prevention of air space violations by military aircraft.

At a press briefing for Indian newsmen, the foreign secretary, Mr. Muchkund Dubey, said that the just concluded third round of India-Pakistan talks was different from the earlier two rounds in the sense that the positive spirit generated by the meetings of the prime ministers of India and Pakistan at Male last month was carried forward in these talks. Mr. Dubey said the Indian side pointed out to the Pakistani team that Islamabad's continued support to subversion in Kashmir and Punjab is a flagrant violation of the Simla Agreement and contrary to the norms governing inter-state relations. It was made clear to Pakistan that Kashmir is an integral part of India and its accession to India is final and irrevocable and, therefore, not negotiable.